

Rita Easterling: Moving with the Chicago Hustle
Working women: On the line at Bell and Howell

KEEP STRONG

December, 1979 - January, 1980

Voices of Chicago's Communities

\$1.00

**"The Only
Real Thing Is
The People"**

Fred Hampton

1948-1969

**His Life and Legacy
Remembered By:**

CHICAGO MUNICIPAL
REF-2815
DEC 28 1979

Slim Coleman
Leon Despres
Eugene Feldman
Mike Gray
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Bill Hampton
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Bev King
James Montgomery
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Don Rose
Howard Saffold
Ronald Satchel
Marion Stamps
Flint Taylor
Rob Warden
Lawrence Zornes Jr.



THIS MONTH ON



5 72 million Americans face 13 percent inflation on fixed incomes. A **KEEP STRONG** report on who is affected by the shrinking dollar.



32 Naomi Blackburn spent nine years at Bell and Howell's "slave shop." A first person account of the trials and lessons of a working mother.



37 For 25 years the Uptown Chicago Commission has passed itself off as "the" community organization in Uptown. **KEEP STRONG** exposes their role in a multi-million dollar real estate deal that displaced hundreds of families.



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KEEP STRONG...

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Seasons Greetings
From The Keep Strong Staff

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Editor — Marc Zalkin. Acting



From The Editor

Friends:

This magazine opens with a look at the effects of inflation. In our usual style, we go to the people as the best source of information. We offer a helping of facts, statistics and analysis but the crux of the problems doesn't lie in an economist's chart. We live under an economic system that is committed to the accumulation of wealth by a small minority at the expense and suffering of the majority of the world.

Fred Hampton and the Black Panther Party rose from among the people to organize resistance to that system. Because he was so effective, and because he was literally in the belly of the monster, he was gunned down as were 27 of his fellow Party members. The vision that he had and the inspiration he left, make up the contents of this month's special 26-page dedication to Fred Hampton.

Naomi Blackburn's account of her years on the line at Bell and Howell finally kicks off our series on "Women In The Work Force." We wanted to start off with a bang and we think we have accomplished that. Thank you Naomi for your honesty and humility.

At the end of November Helen Shiller traveled to Mexico for Keep Strong to cover the Second International Conference on the Independence of Puerto Rico. As Helen reports (page 67) this is a burning question to people all over the world. It will soon rank high on the program of all people in this country fighting for justice.

Best wishes for a year of sharp struggle and new victories.

Marc Zalkin, Acting Editor

Cover photo by Paul Sequeira.

News and Letters From Our Readers

Pontiac Inmate: "Nathan Wright Speaks The Truth"

Dear Editor and Staff:

Today I received my first issue of KEEP STRONG, November, 1979. Thank You very, very much for this Beautiful and Highly Informative Magazine. I will read every issue from cover to cover and will also share my copy with other prisoners.

Nathan Wright, i.e., "THE ESSENCE OF NATHAN WRIGHT," speaks the Truth and I agree with him 99 percent. I only take exception to his comments about murderers, because some convicted murderers also have good work histories and will make good productive Members of Society. I have met and observed some reformed murderers personally. This does not take away from the Truth of Nathan's (the inmates call him Nate) comments, because many murderers are not serving time for murder. These are some of the inmates that continue to return to Prison with short sentences, raise hell and make it difficult for prisoners like Nathan Wright, who are trying to make Prisons and Society better for all.

Before coming to Prison I had a steady work history; this is my first time in Prison and I have tried to be a Model Prisoner (one that does not resort to crime). I was convicted for murder and have been locked up since January 1968.

Under separate cover I am asking the Prison Officials to take \$5 off of my account and mail it to KEEP STRONG. Please mail me 10 copies of the November, 1979 KEEP STRONG. Also, I would sincerely

appreciate other old issues that you have available. After I receive the issues of KEEP STRONG I will send another \$5 to help pay for my subscription. It will take the Prison Officials two or three weeks to take the money off of my account, so please send the issues or hold them until you receive my check. I would like to send a copy of KEEP STRONG to my Family and Friends and encourage them to subscribe to this BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL AMERICAN MAGAZINE.

Sincerely,
Hakim Abu-Bakr #C15020
Pontiac, Illinois

Brother, thank you for your letter of encouragement. We're glad that the magazine can serve some needs. Our policy on subscriptions is that they are free to prisoners and hospitalized veterans. Please don't send us money out of your commissary.

Ed.

Fred Hampton Was A Positive Force In Inmate's Life

To Whom It May Concern:

Hope this letter finds you in the best of health and spirits. My name is Arnold Wilson. I am a prisoner at the Pontiac Correctional Center. I am presently on your mailing list. I really enjoy reading Keep Strong and I look forward to receiving it each month.

I am awaiting your special December-January issue. Fred Hampton was a positive force in my life. The Black Panther Party helped me to understand the negative forces that control the economy of the world. I was 17

years old in 1969 and the death of Fred Hampton confirmed all the suspicions I had about the system.

In the November issue of KEEP STRONG, I read part of the speech Fidel Castro gave before the U.N. I would appreciate it if you could send me the complete text.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter. May the peace and blessings of the Creator be with you.

Power to the Oppressed.
Death to the Negative Mentality.

Arnold Wilson #61911
P.O. Box 99
Pontiac, Illinois

P.S. If you know anyone who would like to communicate with an inmate give them my address.

CABLA Supports Community Board In Struggle Over Black Lung Grant

Editor:

At the November 4 membership meeting of the Chicago Area Black Lung Association (CABLA), over 100 ex-miners and widows voted unanimously to demand, "that HEW direct the administration of Cook County Hospital to fully cooperate with the Community Board of the Uptown People's Health Center (UPHC) and the recent federal grant of black lung monies to Cook County Hospital be held up until the administration of Cook County Hospital cooperates fully with the Community Board and instructs the medical director of the Uptown People's Health Center to do so."

After several years of struggle a

remarkably broad and strong coalition of black lung victims both from Uptown and throughout the Chicago area and thousands of other community people established the Uptown People's Health Center as a comprehensive community controlled health institution, with a special facility for black lung victims.

Recently, the very existence of the UPHC has been threatened by the attempt of the medical director of the center and his superiors in the Department of Medicine of Cook County Hospital to disband the Community Board.

CABLA members were angered by the attempt to use them in order to obtain federal black lung monies without having to be seriously accountable to the black lung victims themselves.

Through the efforts of CABLA over the last four years the plight of coal field migrants has been recognized and HEW regulations were recently changed to allow non-coal mining areas, like Chicago, to receive monies allocated by Congress for treatment programs for black lung victims. A grant proposal was written up for creating such a program at the Uptown People's Health Center; in the proposal the Community Board of the UPHC, of which CABLA is a key part would have been the grantee.

With the collusion of HEW officials, this proposal was rewritten by the Department of Medicine bureaucrats, naming themselves as the grantees, instead of the Community Board. The proposal continued to use CABLA's name as a participant without which there would have been no facade of input for the miners, which is required by law. When CABLA found out about it and protested,

they were informed that it was too late to make any change because the governor had already designated the Department of Medicine as grantees.

Within one week of this letter which assured a grant of \$140,000 to the Department of Medicine, the Department declared "total war" on community control at the UPHC, declaring their absolute refusal to work with the legally constituted community board.

It was in response to this betrayal of the organized ex-miners in the Chicago area that CABLA notified HEW of their refusal to allow the federal black lung money to be allocated until Cook County Hospital agrees to work with the Community Board of the UPHC.

A week after the November 4 membership meeting 20 CABLA members met with officials of HEW and stood firm in their position. CABLA Chairman Richard Ricono stated: "We've been united with the community on this since 1976. We've been part of the Community Board since the beginning. This is what our members want and we're sticking to it."

*Steering Committee
Chicago Area Black Lung
Association*

Cook County Hospital Controversy

To the Editors of KEEP STRONG;

As the former editor and a continuing supporter of KEEP STRONG Magazine I would like to comment on your November issue article on Cook County Hospital. Your description of the blackmailing of Cook County by the County Board

and Governor Thompson was vivid and accurate. I also agree wholeheartedly with your description of the role played by Dr. Young and some of the other doctors from the Department of Medicine in undermining Dr. Haughton and the Governing Commission, making the blackmail possible. However, I think the article should have been more precise in regards to this last description.

A few readers misunderstood the reason for including reference to Dr. Young's confrontation with the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) some years ago. That confrontation, in my opinion, was principled and correct. As your article pointed out, he achieved credibility from this correct confrontation that he later used to take leadership of the struggle to save Cook County Hospital. The point made in the article, which should have been spelled out more precisely so that no one could misquote you, is that we should judge people by what they are doing today, not by what they did in the recent or distant past.

Second, the article should have specifically said that there are many honest and hard-working forces that have worked in the Committee To Save Cook County, and as the article did say, many members of the House Staff maintained a principled position.

The important thing now is to recognize past mistakes and continue the struggle to save Cook County Hospital. *Anyone* who does this should be working together in the interest of unity and the people who need the hospital.

Helen Shiller

EDITORIAL

Human Rights And Urban Resistance

History tries to break down changes that occur in the world and in countries and cities. It looks at the specific times, conditions, people, places and actions to explain what causes governments, ways of life, economic systems and people themselves to change. History is more accurate when it details the role of ordinary people. Ordinary people generate the energy that changes things and the ideas that mold new institutions.

Starting from that position, a history of the last 20 years in this country, would explain the movement led by millions and millions of nonwhite people for human rights.

The movement was rooted in the South. Its character was peaceful but powerful into the mid-sixties. But then, the spark caught the dry wood in America's largest cities. And the wood was dry. Twenty percent of the population was packed onto 1/2000th of the land space. Rats, roaches and police swarmed through the communities at will and 11-year-old girls were doing business on the street at night. The human rights movement in the cities became an urban resistance. And all of a sudden the civil rights movement got as ugly as the system that bore it. The demands were the same — jobs, housing, education, respect and justice.

Every struggle produces leaders from the people.

Fred Hampton was on the streets in the communities in 1968. Fred and his comrades in the Black Panther Party took their program to the

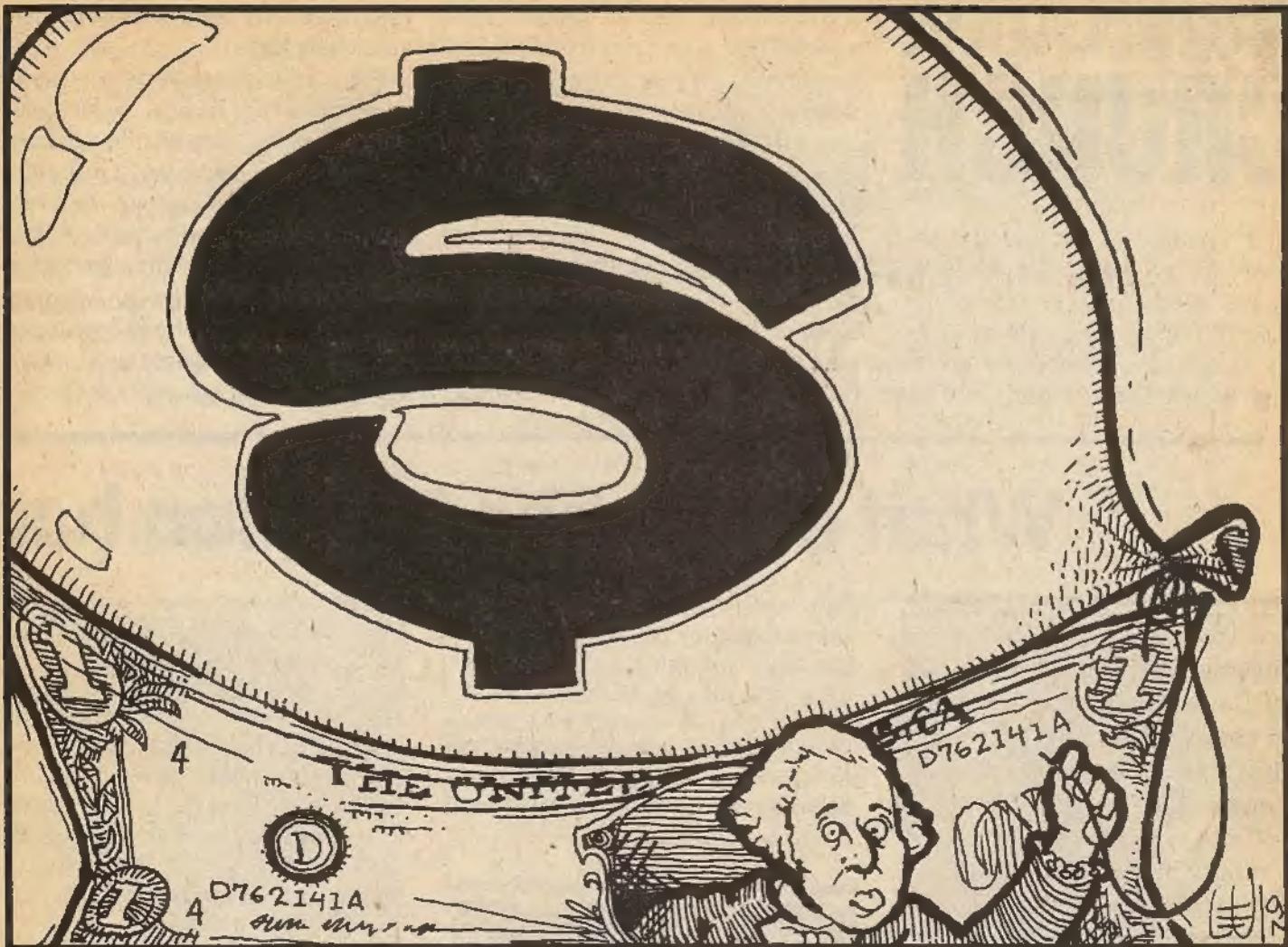
number one "down" neighborhood in the city of Chicago when they set up their office at Western and Madison. They had confidence in their program; more than that, they had confidence in the people. Fred always knew that the people could grasp a method to organize their great energy so they could put it to work. Every time he spoke, he would explain that people learned through "observation and participation." Every talk he gave had examples of how it worked.

The Black Panther Party took the human rights movement and its urban resistance one step further. Fred Hampton took the principle of self-defense and the humanity of the survival programs and pinned them to the hearts of millions of people.

A history of the last 20 years in this country would then explain the great lengths the government went to, to crush this human rights movement. Using everything from Sherman tanks to telephone bugs, the government concentrated billions of dollars to buy, jail and murder the activists. The just anger of tens of millions living inside, but excluded from, the richest country in the world, was met with the steel boot and the hollow point bullet. Before he reached his 22nd birthday, Fred Hampton was assassinated.

Ten years later. Things are a little quieter now. For the time being. That doesn't mean that somebody's not on the move. The rats and their partners are still swarming, the children are still peddling themselves and there are less and less places to work and live and no services worth mentioning.

No, the urban resistance is not over by any means. Not when 45,000 people in Birmingham, Alabama elect a Black mayor. Not when 3,000 poor and working people turn out in Dallas to put the Ku Klux Klan down. Not when a third of a million people in Chicago put the Democratic machine on its butt in a twelve hour election. No, it's not over yet. It's barely begun. The communities are producing new leaders. We may not have Fred, but we understand what he died for and that's all we need. □



Drawing by David Levi

For the second time in less than five years, inflation in this country has climbed over ten percent, reaching a present peak of 13.6 percent. While the Carter administration tries in vain to stop its growth, the rampant increase in prices over the last year has placed overwhelming hardships on the majority of people in the country. Put simply, this country's double-digit inflation means that it will take you about \$1.15 January 1, 1980 to buy the same thing you paid a dollar for January 1, 1979.

Inflation means prices are going up. In theory, if the price of something goes up, people will buy less of it and the price will come down. In reality, this only happens with a

The INFLATION CRUNCH

The INFLATION CRUNCH

small number of things; the so-called luxury items. But over 80 percent of the present rate of inflation is not caused by luxury items but by the rising prices of necessities, such as food, housing, energy

and clothing. All of these basic necessities are controlled by monopolies. These huge corporations do not have to respond to a lack of demand because they control almost the complete production of each of these necessities. You have to buy food, use your car or the bus, heat your home or pay for it through rent, and wear clothing in order to survive. When people do buy less of these things, the corporations are able to create a

"shortage" and the price will remain artificially high.

Since inflation affects the basic necessities of living, poor and working people are hit the hardest. Despite wage increases, inflation cut the average American worker's buying power by more than a dollar a day the past year. The increase in wages over the last year, failed to keep pace with the rise in consumer prices during the same time, resulting in the average worker losing

What effect has inflation had



Sidney Terrell, Barber

Age 50

Owner, Afro-Barbershop

First of all, the prices of the cosmetics have gone up, and people don't come around and get haircuts as often as they used to. This can here used to cost \$2, now it is \$2.25 and I sell it for \$2.50. What I used to make as profit, I don't make as much anymore. The rent has jumped up twice. Two years ago I was paying \$175 a month, now I'm paying \$450. I'm paying much more now than I would have been paying a couple of years ago with the same place. (He's now in a larger location.) Electricity has jumped up around 20 percent. We can't pass these costs along to the customers because the prices are set by the union. If you want to raise your price you have to get

that okayed by all the barbers of the city. Two years ago, the price for a natural was \$6.00 and for a regular haircut it was \$4.00. Now it's \$5.00 for a regular and \$7.00 for a natural. People are getting haircuts much less than they were two years ago.



Cecil Smith

Age 45

W. Wilson Avenue

Factory worker, Fannie Mae (just settled strike there)

"I make \$5.88 an hour. It averages out about \$28 more. It's a lot more than I was getting two years ago. It keeps me going. I put everything out on bills and the rent here. I put out \$230 a month for my apartment, \$215 a month for child support.

My rent is going up here twice a

year. This time it was \$5.00, last time it was \$2.50 (per week). It's up to \$55 a week. I've been living here four years. It was about \$38 a week, or about \$160 a month, in 1975. That's how much it went up in the last two years. Two years ago it was \$50 a week. And some people pay more for these apartments. I got one bedroom, living room and a small kitchen.

I get to work on public transportation. I haven't had a car for quite a few years. My life's getting so tied up to where I can't afford one. Food? I spend a lot more on food now than I've ever done, 'cause my sons come over every night for supper and I have them on weekends. Food has gone sky high. I've cut back on quite a few things. I've cut back on entertainment, and I've cut back on my smoking. I'm supposed to go to the doctor every month but I make it about every two months.

I have no breakfast and I have no lunch. I eat when I get home. We don't have time for lunch; we only get a 15-minute lunch break. We work straight through and we get paid for it.

I used to go to see my parents once in a while, but now I don't get to do that but once a year.

close to \$8 a week in purchasing power. Over 52 weeks this comes to a loss of \$416. Whereas the worker actually lost money last year, corporations fared much better. Business managed to not only keep pace with inflation, but increased their profits by almost one-third during 1979.

Those on fixed incomes were hurt even harder and it is not as if people on fixed incomes are a small percent of the population. In fact,

on you?



Josephine Cardona

N. Kenmore Street (homeowner)
Unemployed machine operator

We're very concerned about the prices at the stores. I used to put wax on my floor. I stopped buying wax because I can't waste \$3.99 on the floor. And I used to put spices in the food. I'm spending less or not buying them at all, because I can't afford it. I used to change my clothes, my bed, often. I have to keep the clothes more times, because you have to spend more on clothes, more on everything. I have to cut as much as I can.

We used to eat meat, a pork chop each, not more than that. Ground meat, now no more. We eat sausages, like hard salami and make a soup. The next day, another kind of soup with rice. In some kinds I use another kind of



Gainers and Losers In Real Pay

	Average Weekly Pay Before Taxes	Gain In Pay From Year Ago	Change In Real Pay After Allowing For Higher Prices, Taxes
Those Keeping Up...			
Farm operators.....	\$245.96	\$45.96	+\$17.13
Meatpackers.....	\$317.94	\$40.56	+\$ 6.86
Metal miners.....	\$372.04	\$42.37	+\$ 4.23
Aluminum workers.....	\$421.18	\$48.52	+\$ 3.22
...And Those Falling Back			
Social Security recipients.....	\$ 64.42	\$ 5.80	-\$.59
Metal-can workers.....	\$411.21	\$41.92	-\$.94
Steelworkers.....	\$429.09	\$44.11	-\$ 1.50
Laundry workers.....	\$141.11	\$11.31	-\$ 2.78
Toy-factory workers.....	\$170.17	\$12.02	-\$ 2.89
Retired federal workers.....	\$168.44	\$13.89	-\$ 3.20
Nonelectric-machinery workers.....	\$305.03	\$25.73	-\$ 4.15
Food processors.....	\$253.26	\$20.68	-\$ 4.24
Coal miners.....	\$434.70	\$41.11	-\$ 4.74
Bank employees.....	\$161.81	\$ 9.24	-\$ 4.87
Wholesale-trade workers.....	\$249.85	\$19.36	-\$ 5.09
Retail clerks.....	\$142.52	\$ 8.44	-\$ 5.92
Metal-products workers.....	\$276.21	\$20.25	-\$ 6.31
Clothing workers.....	\$149.46	\$ 8.73	-\$ 6.33
Fully disabled veterans.....	\$227.58	\$16.17	-\$ 6.87
Chemical workers.....	\$315.74	\$21.75	-\$ 8.33
Shoe-factory workers.....	\$150.22	\$ 7.35	-\$ 8.33
Printing-and-publishing workers.....	\$257.74	\$15.11	-\$ 9.19
Electrical-equipment workers.....	\$247.35	\$13.57	-\$ 9.73
Local bus drivers.....	\$290.37	\$17.29	-\$10.19
Federal workers.....	\$355.67	\$21.96	-\$10.39
Schoolteachers.....	\$289.23	\$15.25	-\$11.78
Construction workers.....	\$349.65	\$19.98	-\$12.09
Telephone workers.....	\$309.10	\$14.99	-\$13.26
Electric and gas-utility workers.....	\$334.93	\$16.32	-\$13.99
Auto workers.....	\$378.98	\$ 9.75	-\$23.58

noodle and sometimes, potato. On Sunday it's chicken soup. On Saturday, sometimes we make a little fried chicken. You got to make it this way. We used to eat a better quality. I used to be 140, 145, now I'm maybe 165 because we eat too much potatoes, too much cheap food.

Sometimes I read with a flash-

light and glasses, and I tell my friends, if you want to visit this house, I hate to tell you this, but I can't have all the lights on. Another thing, I don't use the television. I had to tell my daughter, stop these friends from coming up because if they stay long in the house, they want to use the water, the toilet. They want to use

The INFLATION CRUNCH

the more than 72 million people living on these incomes, such as social security recipients, disabled people, public aid recipients, disabled coal miners and workers living on pensions, represent

around 30 percent of the population over 18 years of age. And of these, only 40 million are of retirement age. Across the country these people have gone without necessities. Whereas the average worker received a 7.2 percent increase in pay in 1979, these people averaged much less. Social security recipients were the only group of people who received any significant cost-of-living increase. Since a person on a fixed income has less

money to start with, they are hit twice. Most of these people are already spending all of their money on necessities and there is nothing left for them to cut out. To compound the problem, the government has begun blaming these very programs as the cause of inflation, making any significant cost-of-living increase very unlikely.

President Carter says he will reduce inflation from its present rate of nearly 14 percent to under 9

more light. We have to make coffee, sometimes maybe two, three times, if it's time to eat, we have to offer some because this is our way.

I used to plant things in the yard. Now I can't do it because it's too much water, the bill is too high and we are poor people. We own our own house. It's too hard for us, I don't know how we make it.



Fred Teuke

Age 64
N. Ashland Avenue
Retired

Since my wife stopped working earlier this year, we've had to cut down some of our social activities such as eating out and entertainment. We had to cut down on travel.

When you're just on a fixed income, well, you just get so much money. We did get a nine percent increase in social

security last July, but inflation goes up more than that and we don't get another raise until July again. They figure it on the cost-of-living. One year they gave us three percent; last year they gave us nine percent. This year they might give us five or seven or they might give us nine again. You never know until June what it's going to be. We're always behind.

The landlord pays the heat. That's why we got the rent raised. The landlord says with the price of gas I had to raise your rent, I'll raise your rent a minimum. I don't know where we can conserve any energy. We're already using a minimum.



Art Lallas

Age 48
A & B Food market
Grocer, 15 years

Buying power has definitely gone down. It affected mainly the people on welfare and food

stamps. Food stamp increases have not kept up with the inflationary cycle.

Fortunately, poultry has stayed very stable; meat has not really gone up that much. Hamburger meat fluctuates but it has stayed pretty stable. It has gone up, but it comes down too. Beef prices in particular are about the only meat prices that have really gone up, all the beef products, and that's reflected in hot dogs, lunch meat, anything that has beef in it.

People are definitely buying less. They've stretched the dollar as far as it can go. They've become more particular in their buying, more selective. Buying only the necessities. That's about the size of it.

I'll tell you another item, as everyone knows, that has gone up in the last year — dairy products. We've absorbed quite a bit of the wholesale increase in dairy products; we've kept our retail prices within the reach of the people. We do not make the normal mark-up on gallons of milk. We just about give them away, almost at cost, just to cover our handling, because the actual retail price today of a gallon of milk is close to \$2.00, it's \$1.95 or something. And we've held our price here to \$1.79.

Inflation has created a problem for the grocery store owner that has gotten out of hand. Shoplifting. I've noticed a trend in the last

percent by the end of 1980. He feels that a 9 percent inflation is acceptable. But even if 9 percent is acceptable, it does not seem too likely. Most economists, including the Secretary of the Treasury, William Miller, feel that inflation will continue to rise in double digits and that it will take "a good eight years to wring it out of the economy." And by that time the average pound of hamburger will cost \$4.49. □

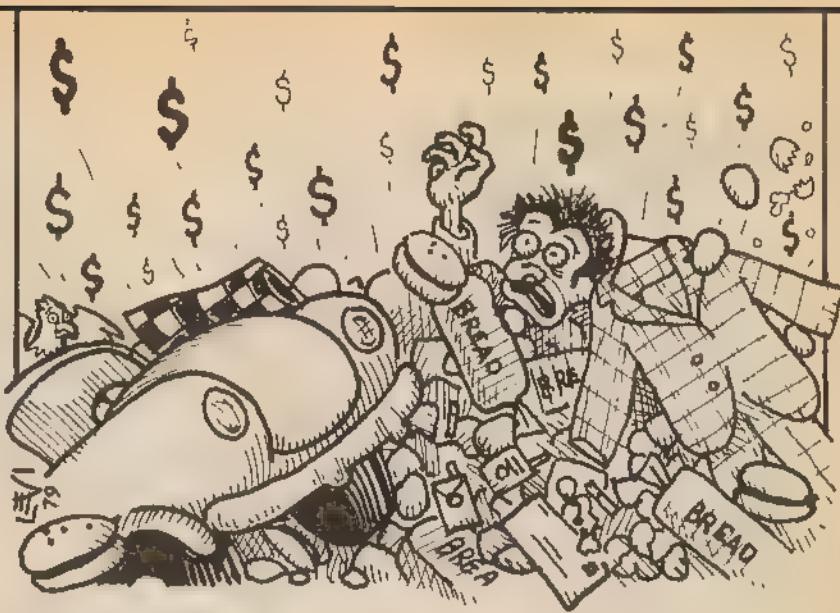
year. Shoplifting in this area is bad, but in the last year it's really gotten worse. I noticed a lot of people who are on social security, elderly people, trying to stick some small item in their pockets. Maybe that's out of necessity. I assume with the older people that it's mainly out of necessity. It's sad to say that a lot of people on food stamps have found that their food stamps do not adequately provide, and they have resorted to shoplifting, to put something a little extra on the table at home. And this is what's happening; it's a sad situation. Shoplifting, it's gotten to be an epidemic.



Charley Johnson

Age 48
N. Broadway
Barber

I've been a barber over 10 years. The noticeable effect of inflation is declining customers.



Consumer Prices — The Results Since 1969

	Typical Price 10 Years Ago	Typical Current Price	Percent Increase
Semiprivate hospital room, per day.....	\$47.00	\$134.00	185%
Regular gasoline, 10 gallons.....	\$3.48	\$9.68	178%
New house, median price.....	\$25,600.00	\$64,000.00	150%
First-class postage, 1 ounce.....	\$0.06	\$0.15	150%
Hamburger, per pound.....	\$0.62	\$1.54	148%
Physician's office fee.....	\$6.75	\$14.60	116%
Tuition, room, board at state university, per year.....	\$1,117.00	\$2,346.00	110%
Week's food for family of four.....	\$36.90	\$77.50	110%
New car.....	\$3,400.00	\$6,910.00	103%
Tooth filling.....	\$7.40	\$14.15	91%
Loaf white bread, per pound.....	\$0.23	\$0.43	87%
Man's haircut.....	\$2.50	\$4.25	70%
Cigarettes, per pack.....	\$0.37	\$0.62	68%
Local bus ride.....	\$0.30	\$0.50	67%
Woman's skirt.....	\$7.50	\$12.00	60%
Eggs, per dozen.....	\$0.53	\$0.81	53%
Man's suit.....	\$109.00	\$128.60	18%

During this same 10-year period, the consumer price index increased by 99 percent.

Source: U.S. News and World Report

People who used to get their hair cut maybe twice a week, now maybe do it twice a month. Tips are nonexistent. I get 75 percent and the owner gets 25 percent. A year ago we were making on the average, a reasonable amount, and now we're making an unreasonable amount, a very

unreasonable amount. I'm taking home maybe 20 percent less now than a year ago. So I'm tightening my belt. Things I used to do, I can't do anymore. Where I used to take my clothes to the cleaners once a week, now I can only once every three weeks. I used to eat three meals a day. Now I eat two.

The INFLATION CRUNCH

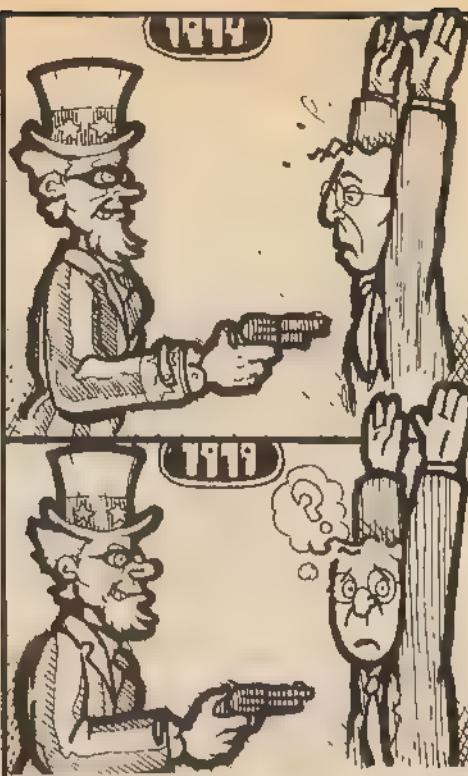
I spent an average of \$4.00 on a dinner; now I spend \$3.00. It's dastardly, it's very discouraging. The traumatic part about it, I don't see any improvement in the future...Spiralling, steady spiralling.



Jeo Eaton Fillis

Age 62
W. Grace St.
Office Clerk, Shimer College

"It's affected me very badly. I've gotten poorer and poorer although my salary has gone up a little. But I notice that I just don't have as much to spend. Although I have a little more take-home, I still don't have as much as I did two years ago, or even last year. If I eat out at all, and working, I go out for lunch, restaurant prices have gone up so terribly. It is necessary to get out, and instead of having lunch I have a bowl of soup now. I smoke; cigarettes have gone up a lot, although I was in Minneapolis, Minnesota and they're 95 cents a pack there. I went to see my brother for Thanksgiving and got a ride with his daughter, my niece. If I was making the salary I'm making right now a few years ago, I could have gone to see him by bus or even maybe by airplane. Now I



How Inflation Robs the Taxpayer—An Example

A married worker with a nonworking spouse and two children had an income of \$20,000 in 1974. Pay rose just as fast as inflation, so that in 1979 it will total \$29,380. But—

	1974	1979
Gross Income	\$20,000	\$29,380
Federal Income tax	\$ 2,510	\$ 4,030
Social Security tax	\$ 772	\$ 1,404
After-tax Income	\$16,718	\$23,946
After-tax Income in 1974 dollars	\$16,718	\$16,301

THUS, the tax bite is up from 16.4 percent of gross income to 18.5 percent, and purchasing power has fallen \$417.

have to watch it so closely. There are just no trimmings.

I'm thanking heaven that my television set hasn't gone out, because I don't go to the movies. Now I'm very, very happy to have my television set still going. I don't have to get a repairman, because I'm dreading the cost of repairs.



Arnette Atkins

Age 18
N. Broadway
Student, Shimer College
"We've cut out desserts and meat a lot; we've cut down the basic

meats. We used to have more beef; we don't have that anymore. More fish...we don't have that anymore. So we're living off of chicken, turkey, lamb, frozen foods, beef stew or macaroni or something on sale. We were eating more fresh fruit and more fresh vegetables. Now we're eating mostly canned goods — instant this and instant that. Less butter, more margarine, no eggs at all, they've just gotten ridiculous. Milk — we don't buy milk either. Kool-Aid, something we used to have just about every day, that's no more. Juices — we don't even think about buying that. Hot dogs, that too. We don't even buy cereal, no more of that. We might buy oatmeal or grits which last longer, but box cereal, no. So there's no reason for milk. Sugar is another thing we stopped buying. We buy brown sugar in a little package for the oatmeal. Cremora, we don't buy that either; we don't buy coffee at all. We used to buy coffee a lot. It's a continual list of stuff.

Paymaster Strike – “All We Want To Do Is Make A Decent Living”

CHICAGO — The employees of Paymaster Corporation, 1811 Winnemac, on Chicago's northside, have been on strike since Wednesday, October 24.

The workers are members of the United Auto Workers (UAW), Local 2087. This is the first strike in the history of the 50 year old company. The workers voted to be represented by the UAW in September of last year. Certification arrived on January 15 of this year. According to Sandy Grathouse, a Paymaster employee for 27 years, and chairperson of the union negotiating committee, “The workers won the election by such a large majority, we thought we would just sit down and draw up a contract. But we found out it just doesn't work that way.”

The company appealed the results to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Three times

“We're not asking to drive a ‘Cadillac’ or live in a penthouse. All we want is to put food on the table.”

the appeals were thrown out when the board ruled the company had no grounds. But they delayed contract negotiations for seven months.

Conditions in the company had led the workers to bring in a union and Ms. Grathouse explained the conditions. Ms. Grathouse is a group leader in the inspection de-



Sandy Grathouse, a Paymaster worker for 27 years, and chairperson of the union's negotiating committee, talks with co-workers about the growing strike.

partment. The company manufactures check writing machines used by banks and businesses.

“The workers used to have a yearly increase in pay, across the board, everyone in the plant, before Mr. Lewis took over the new management. He brought in the A.B.C. system which works on your productivity rate and absenteeism record. No more general increases across the board. If the foreman likes you, you get into A, which is top grade, if not, you stay in B. Some people made their A rating very easily, others took a month, two months, 180 days.

“There was so much favoritism in the plant. Some people made good money, others did not. The company-paid insurance was taken away, and any raise they got was nullified by having to pay their own insurance.

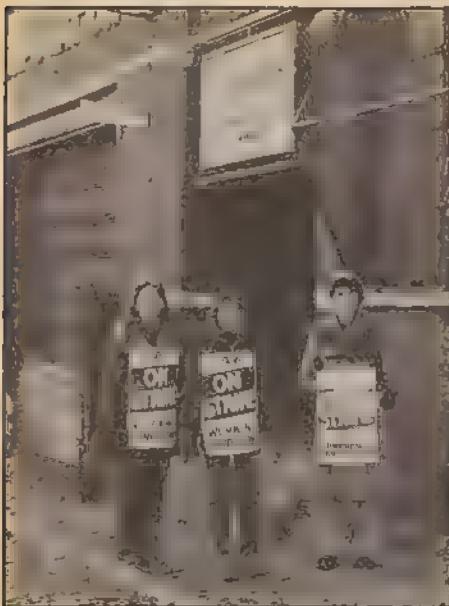
“The workers were getting disgusted, the cost of living had gone up so high. They didn't have a

raise in over a year. This was why they organized to get a union.

“We really didn't expect we'd be out on a strike. What we were asking for was paid insurance and a cost of living increase. They cut off negotiations with us. We are at an impasse now with the company. We are waiting for them to contact us. We haven't heard one word from them. They know where we are at. We have given them several proposals. They have met some, like the small fringe benefits they had taken away from us, like 15 minute breaks instead of 10 minutes and a Christmas bonus.

“In the last year the company had people working overtime and on Saturday for the first time in years. They were stockpiling their inventory. The salesmen haven't honored the picket line. They have been carrying out machines. But so far every truck driver that has pulled up to the company has honored the picket line and left.

LABOR



From 6:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., striking workers at Paymaster walk the picket line, asking for a cost-of-living increase and paid insurance.

"The only people working in the plant are foremen and office help. They had a year to stockpile and that's what's keeping them going.

They figure they have us over a barrel, but they don't realize we are as stubborn as they are.

"The union picks up the employees' insurance and pays each striker a weekly subsidy. Nobody will starve. We don't let anybody get thrown out of their homes or lose anything they have. We have plenty of money in the strike fund to back us up. We are going to hold out!

"All we want to do is make a decent living — be able to put food on the table, drive a car and be able to buy clothes. We are not asking to drive a 'Cadillac' or live in a penthouse. With the rate of inflation now, it's very hard. Taxes are high, the cost of gas is up, many employees have a long drive to work.

"Mr. Lewis doesn't want to give us anything easily, so we are going to have to fight to take it. That is the only alternative he has left us.

"He has not been fair with us. We have nothing to look forward to. There is no incentive here. Everybody needs some incentive. The Typesetters and Tool and Die men are all out. Their rate was so far below standard scale, the top scale had been dropped \$2.

"Over 60 percent of the employees are women. They save money that way by not paying as much as men. They get around that by saying a woman's machine is a little different to work on. Our length of service increase has been cut off. Some of these women have been on the job here 12 to 15 years. They refused to do anything about raising our pension, which is very low. We would be better off if we had profit sharing in the company."

As of Thanksgiving week, the workers at Paymaster, were still out on strike, walking the picket line from 6:30 in the morning until 4:00 p.m. □

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Bennie Lenard Police Brutality Case Starts Trial In February

CHICAGO — Bennie Lenard, a Black Chicago auto worker, has worked as a repairman at International Harvester in Melrose Park, for 15 years. On January 31, 1977, he was brutally beaten unconscious by the Melrose Park police, who were responding to his call in a minor traffic accident involving Bennie and a White woman. Bennie filed charges against the police, the city of Melrose Park and the local hospital which allegedly "treated" him. The multi-million dollar civil rights suit is scheduled to come to trial in February.

Melrose Park, a western suburb of Chicago, has no Blacks on its police force and no Black families. On Jan. 31, 1977, Bennie's car collided with an auto driven by a young White woman, but only minor

The police left him lying in a pool of blood and freezing water on the cold cement cell floor.

damage was done. Bennie called the Melrose police to file an accident report and when they arrived trouble began.

After asking Bennie for his drivers license, which he showed them, the police searched him, handcuffed him and told Bennie he was going to jail. Using racial slurs such as "coon," and "big Black nigger" the police threw Bennie in the back seat of the squad car and with a nightstick beat him directly on the

eyeball, his head and mouth. The beating was so severe that Bennie is permanently blind in one eye.

When he regained consciousness, the police beat Bennie again, took him to the Melrose Police station and threw him into a cold 6' x 8' cell. He had been stripped of his clothes except for underwear and was left lying in a pool of blood and water on cold cement. The temperature outside was well below zero and Lenard charges that an electric fan was turned directly on him. He was given no medical attention for eight hours and finally, when the

police took him to West Lake Hospital, he was given no more than an ice pack and a few tylenols with codeine.

Bennie, whose face was swollen three times its size due to a fractured cheekbone received during the police beating, told KEEP STRONG, "Today I'm still in pain. My arm was pulled out of my shoulder socket and there's permanent damage to my vision. I was tortured." Following the incident, Bennie spent 49 days in Mercy Hospital where he underwent extensive surgery. The injuries to his face and



Bennie Lenard hospitalized in 1977 — Police called Bennie "a big Black nigger," threw him in the squad car and beat his face and head with a nightstick.



Bennie Lenard today — "There's been permanent damage to my eye. I was tortured."

IN MEMORIAM

Val R. Klink

1936 - 1979

Val Klink, a progressive Chicago attorney and activist, noted for his tireless work in civil rights, civil liberties and labor law, died in Chicago on October 24, 1979. He was 43 years old.

At the time of his death Val was representing Bennie Lenard, a Black auto worker, in a major police brutality civil rights case scheduled to go to federal trial

In February. He also was co-counsel on a major suit against the Chicago Police Department's red squad for illegal police spying, and an attorney working on the Pontiac prison case.

After graduating from the University of Colorado Law School in 1961, Val worked as an attorney in the U.S. Air Force stationed near Little Rock, Arkansas and while not on duty traveled throughout the south, serving as an attorney and active participant in the civil rights movement. During the Vietnam War, Val served as a lawyer with the Chicago Area Military Project (CAMP), which advised GI's of their legal rights. Val was a

head were so severe that he was told not to look at himself in the mirror for fear that he would go into shock.

The civil rights suit, which goes to trial in February, charges Melrose Park police with false arrest, and attempted murder; conspiracy to obstruct justice (covering up the police beating by charging Lenard with misdemeanors); charges West Lake Hospital with malpractice and the state with "malicious" prosecution. Part of the conspiracy charge is that West Lake Hospital serves as the chief "treating" hospital for persons in custody of the Melrose police. The police beating combined with the rubber-stamp treatment Bennie received at the hospital indicate they intended for him to die.

Earlier this year Bennie was acquitted of all but one of the nine state charges, in a criminal case filed against him by the Melrose Park police. The last charge (transporting an open beer can) is being

founder of the Alliance to End Repression; served on the steering committee of the Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights and was President of the Chicago chapter of the National Lawyers Guild in 1976.

More than 300 friends attended a memorial dinner for Val held November 10 at the First Congregational Church in Westtown. Val Klink will be remembered for his force and vision; his endless work without compensation. "He was always fighting against racism and discrimination... never wanting to submit to an authority which was unjust. He was a fighter who never gave up."

POLICE

appealed and attorneys and Bennie are optimistic that the charge will be thrown out of court.

According to Lenard and his attorney Cecile Singer, the key fact in the whole case is the severe beating Bennie received at the hands of the Melrose Park police. Bennie and his legal team are hopeful that in federal court they will be able to present evidence including photographs of Bennie following the beating, which were never allowed in the state court. These photos, along with information obtained through discovery, will prove the conspiracy. Attorney Cecile Singer states, "The heart of the argument was that official police reports not turned over to Lenard, favored him and negated his guilt." The whole atmosphere of the trial in state court was like a murder trial. More than 300 supporters attended and the po-

Photographs of Bennie, following the police beating, were never allowed in state court.

lice responded by sending a SWAT team and riot-equipped police to the courthouse.

Bennie Lenard points out that the real significance of his case will be in educating the people as to how the police and the courts come down against Blacks and minorities. From the time he filed the suit against the police in 1977, Bennie Lenard and his family and friends have been subjected to continual harassment from the police and the FBI, including threatening letters. In one instance, the FBI came to Bennie's home and presented his

wife Ardrella with papers they wanted Bennie to sign. When they were told that these matters were usually handled through Bennie's attorneys, the FBI charged that Bennie "did not cooperate." Yet, they never attempted to contact his lawyer at that time, Val Klink.

Bennie Lenard continues to work at International Harvester in Melrose Park, where members of UAW Local 6 have rallied to his support in the upcoming trial. "We are showing the people who run this country and the courts, that Black people and minorities aren't going to take this treatment anymore," says Bennie Lenard.

The trial is scheduled to start Feb 4 at the Federal Court Building in Chicago, 219 S. Dearborn, Room 2319 (Judge Flaum). The trial is open to the public. □

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Community Opposition To Chaddick Shopping Mall Grows

By Tim Hart

CHICAGO — "I don't want this because I need the money. I became concerned several years ago when the late Mayor Richard Daley and I were sitting around my place in Palm Springs, California. Mayor Daley complained that people make money off the city and don't want to put any money back in. That bug really hit me. Chicago's been very good to me and now I'd like to do something for the community." Citing statistics that pointed to Chicago's declining population and tax revenues, real estate wheeler dealer Harry Chaddick pleaded with his audience, "We gotta find a way to get some money back in here."

At a meeting organized and orchestrated by the 47th Ward alderman and co-sponsored by the

Small businesses have not been invited to be on the mall; Chaddick only wants the big stores, like Montgomery Ward.

North Center Neighbors on November 19, Chaddick went through his routine. The response was not at all favorable. Two hundred area residents came out to get the latest word on Chaddick's proposal to displace Victor Comptometer (see KS Aug., 1979) with a 350,000 square foot shopping mall at Irving and Rockwell (4000 N., 2600 W.).



More than 200 people attended a recent community meeting to voice opposition to Harry Chaddick's proposed shopping mall at Irving Park and Rockwell. West Lakeview residents and businessmen fear the mall will create traffic congestion and force small businesses to leave the area.

Chaddick, who serves on Mayor Byrne's Economic Development Commission, holds the option to purchase the entire property if he can defeat neighborhood opposition.

Neighborhood opposition is substantial. Ron Peters, owner of North Center Camera and a member of the North Center Chamber of Commerce said, "We've taken the position that the proposal will undermine most area businesses and even kill a few. The new money that Chaddick is talking about will not come from the suburbs...but from North Center, Belmont and Lincoln and Lawrence Avenue businesses."

Peters emphasized that local businesses "have absolutely not been invited to be in on the shopping mall. Chaddick wants chain

stores that have big names." In fact, Chaddick has mentioned Montgomery Ward (owned by Exxon Oil Co.) as an anchor (main) store.

Mrs. Mary Timmons of 2428 W. Bernice expressed the feelings of many neighborhood residents, "I think it's a terrible idea and it will ruin the neighborhood. The traffic will spill over on Campbell and Bernice Streets and into the neighborhood and threaten neighborhood children who cross the streets going to school and Revere Park."

Mrs. Timmons disputed Chaddick's claim that there is a shortage of shopping in the area, "We have plenty around here, more than we had 12 years ago by far."

Joel Bookman of the Lawrence Avenue Development Corporation (LADCOR) has been organizing the fight against Chaddick's pro-

posal since last spring. He offers several good reasons for his fight. "There are 14 commercial shopping strips within a three mile radius of the proposed shopping site. There were never any commercial vacancies in the Belmont Central area before the Brickyards was built (Chaddick built the Brickyards at Diversey and Naragansett after rolling over community opposition in 1975.) Now there are ten or twelve vacancies and two major stores (Wallenfine Furniture and Tailored Girl) are moving out. Studies have shown that when local commercial strips begin to deteriorate, the surrounding neighborhoods and housing follows. Commercial strips are essential for the health of the neighborhood. Without a thriving commercial strip, people are unwilling to invest in the community."

Many residents were disturbed by the way the meeting was conducted. Alderman Schulter ran the meeting and stressed his feeling that only residents of the immediate area (his

ward, the 47th) should have anything to say about the plan. Ron Peters was disgusted with the whole thing, "His point that only residents of the immediate area should have a say is a lot of bunk. Listen, they chose a small meeting hall which was filled by seven, although the meeting wasn't scheduled to begin until 7:30 p.m. Uniformed police and plainclothesman were all over the place." Schulter, who took no formal position for or against the plan, was joined by 47th ward committeeman Ed Kelly. Mrs. Timmons explained, "Residents don't trust Alderman Schulter." Another lady was more blunt: "Schulter doesn't go anywhere without Ed Kelly. He couldn't. He wouldn't know what to say or how to act. He's Ed's boy all the way." Peters described the efforts of the North Center Chamber of Commerce to get help from the alderman for the last 10 years. The Chamber wanted his help in getting more parking space. Instead, "we've gotten excuse after excuse. The parking here is lousy and not a week goes by that customers don't complain."

Forty organizations including LADCOR, Bookman's group, are opposed to the shopping center plan. While Kelly has taken no stance in the controversy, the presence of his precinct workers cheering Chaddick at the November 19 meeting, put the committeeman right under Chaddick's arm. Schulter announced that a meeting will be held on December 5th to determine the community's formal opinion. To most who were there on November 19, the formal opinion is already clear. □

Tim Hart is news editor of the Chicago ILLINI.



Real estate developer Harry Chaddick: "We gotta find a way to get some money back in here."

810 Grace Tenants Challenge Co-op Conversion

CHICAGO — Tenants, at 810 W. Grace, a federally-subsidized, 27-story, 260-unit building on Chicago's northside, have been on rent strike for more than a month. The rent strike was called when the low and moderate-income residents learned that their building had been sold and was going to be converted into a co-operative. The tenants had never been consulted.

Mac Tenorio, president of the tenants association at 810 Grace, presently lives in one of the three bedroom apartments with his family of five and pays \$277 a month for rent. Under the proposed conversion the rent would go up to \$546. With the building as a co-operative, tenants become members, "own shares" and pay themselves for all repairs and maintenance costs. That's one of the main problems. "We've got mice, roaches, fungus growing on the walls, heating problems, all sorts of deficiencies. The building is deteriorating" Mr. Tenorio states. At \$546 a month he might as well "go to Lake Shore Drive and look for a place to live."

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) arranged the sale of the building between the new owners, Co-operative and Condominium

REAL ESTATE

Communities and the former owners, Broadway/Grace Associates. Tenorio states that some families may not be eligible for the rent subsidy and "be forced to leave." "There's no way to move out and get a cheaper apartment," says Tenorio. "This is one of the cheapest places a low-income family can stay."

The real issue in the rent strike is that the building has been deteriorating over the years — falling to pieces. Concrete is falling off the face of the building and the elevators often jam. People get trapped. Residents argue that the previous owners, Broadway/Grace Associates, knew that the building was getting run down but just wanted "out."

The new owners promise that they will fix up the building - installing refrigerators, carpeting and cabinets. But no tenants have received no written guarantees. Management thinks that they can fix up

the building with only \$2.5 million but tenants point out that labor costs alone are \$1 million. Tenants want an independent engineer to come in and detail the necessary repairs.

Broadway/Grace Associates spent a year in secret negotiations with HUD and the new owners, Co-operative and Condominium Communities. The tenants became angry when they learned that the building had been sold. Residents were quickly told by the "co-op professionals" that if they weren't interested in buying into the co-op, they would be able to find other tenants who were.

The tenants explain that the whole deal violates HUD guidelines which state that the tenants must be notified of a proposed sale. This was never done at 810 Grace. The tenants union says it must be allowed to review all HUD documents pertaining to the sale and proposed conversion.

HUD is not supposed to permit the sale of buildings which are below code and in such deteriorated condition such as 810 Grace. "These problems were not created by the tenants. HUD never used its authority to do something about it." The tenants have been trying to get Elmer Binford, HUD regional director to come out and meet with the group, but so far he's declined.

"This is a testing ground for HUD," says Mac Tenorio. "If they turn our building into a co-operative the rest of the subsidized housing will go into this model. With all the deficiencies, a lot of tenants have to suffer and pay for it. Fix up the place first and then talk about ownership."

Some people have been verbally harassed and told that if they don't join the co-operative, they'll be evicted. No one has actually received any notice in writing. Ida Fisher, building manager at 810 Grace and president of the new group, Co-operative and Condominium Communities, Inc., recently told *Lerner Papers* that action will be taken against the rent strikers. She did not mention the specifics.

As the rent strike moves into December, the tenants are clear in their demands. If eviction proceedings are started against any of the tenants, the 810 Grace Tenants Union has been assured of sympathy strikes by residents of neighboring FHA-insured buildings such as those at 833 Buena and 533 W. Barry. More than 50 percent of the tenants at 810 Grace already have participated by putting their monthly rent into an escrow account in the bank. More tenants have vowed to withhold their rent in December if the issue is not settled. □



Tenants at 810 Grace meet to discuss demands in their growing rent strike. Tenants are protesting the conversion of the 260-unit, federally subsidized building to a co-operative without their consent.

Historic Settlement In Avery Suit

CHICAGO — Attorneys for a group of Uptown residents who filed a federal suit against a private developer, the city and the federal government in 1975 have announced a landmark settlement in the case.

The suit was filed in 1975 (see KS Nov. 1979) against developer William Thompson and sought to block the development of a multi-million dollar high-rise at Broadway and Montrose. The plaintiffs were many of the tenants Thompson removed to make way for the development.

James P. Chapman, General Counsel for the Uptown People's Community Service Center, had worked on the case since the early stages of discussion. Chapman told KEEPS STRONG he was pleased with the settlement. "This was a historic case. The lawsuit was designed to block the project. Thompson was only one of the de-

fendants and we've amended him out now. But the case is still in court against the other defendants: the city, CHA and the federal government. The developers had to change their plans to meet the needs of the community. There are cash reparations for tenants who were wrongfully removed. There will be jobs for people from the community in the construction and in the

Specifically the settlement provides:

- 21 percent (76 units) of the apartments in the project will be subsidized for low-income families.
- Pensacola property will include a new supermarket and drug store or other comparable stores.
- The defendants (Thompson) agree to make "best reasonable effort" to influence the new

The Avery Suit shows that the people can stop a multi-million dollar developer and force him to change plans so they meet the needs of the community.

new supermarket that is going in. That, by the way, is one of the major concessions that we won. They didn't have any supermarket in their original plan. We also won a guaranteed percentage of low-income units in the new buildings."

merchants to hire people from the community near the site.

• Defendants will place \$45,000 in a "settlement fund" to be distributed "to persons who were damaged as a result of being required to vacate" their homes for the development.

• Defendants will pay partially for the costs of the litigation.

More important than even those stipulations, according to community organizers, is the fact that the suit was effective in blocking the development for four and a half years and is still standing in court.

Real estate developers shudder as they see the truth in Chapman's final statement, "Ultimately, this is a signal to other developers and speculators that they're not just going to come into the community and do what they please. What we're saying to them is, 'You can be stopped.' " □



Plaintiffs rejoice after winning historic settlement in Avery lawsuit. The community will get some low-income housing, construction jobs, supermarket jobs and a \$45,000 "settlement" fund. The money goes to tenants who were removed to make way for the Pensacola project.

Congressional Report Cites Massive Rental Shortage

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A report prepared for Congress by the General Accounting Office (GAO) and released November 8, characterizes rental housing in the United States as an "endangered species." The study offers a severe picture of the overall declining number of vacant rental units, five percent of the total number of units, and states that the larger the apartment the greater the shortage. The rate for five room apartments is 3.8 percent and six or more rooms, 2.8 percent.

People with incomes below \$7,000 are spending 50 percent or more of their income to pay rent.

In describing the declining number of available rental apartments the report mentions three main factors.

- Only a few moderately priced apartment buildings are being built. The number of unsubsidized apartments constructed in 1978 was lower in 1978 than at any time in the previous 20 years, and the forecast for 1979 is even worse. The amount of money the federal government will spend on low-income apartments is fixed and limited by the federal budget. Increased construction costs lead to less buildings going up.

- Continued loss of existing apartments comes through abandonment, foreclosure and conversion to co-ops and condominiums.

- Deterioration of existing units — 41 percent of all existing units were built before 1939.

The GAO report emphasizes substantial inequities in the ability of tenants to pay rising rents or small landlords to keep pace with soaring costs.

Annual Increase 1973—1977 (%)

Renters' income	5.6
Costs	9.0
Rents	9.6

Additionally, the report points out that an increasing number of Americans are spending a greater share of their incomes for rent. Forty-eight percent of all renters use up 25 percent of their income on rent. Almost 4 million households, with annual incomes under \$7,000 use 50 percent or more of this income for rent.

Locally, activists confirm these statistics. A study-survey conducted in North Lakeview by Operation Community Solution (OCS) concluded that most renters spend between two and five months looking for an apartment. The survey also found that large families with children were living in units where rents were higher and maintenance noticeably neglected.

Many of those who were involved in the North Lakeview survey are organizing a community structure to impact the reduction of rental units. The community board is the first step, organizers promise, in a range of programs designed to assist small property owners and renters in planning community development. □



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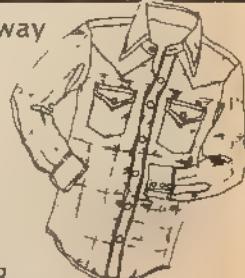
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Giant Insurance Company — Big Bidder For County Hospital Contract

CHICAGO — The Cook County Board moved forward with its plans to dismember Cook County Hospital in November, as people from a number of communities threatened political retaliation against Jane Byrne and the Democratic Party for their role in the operation.

In the latest development KEEP STRONG has learned that the major bidder for the County Hospital management contract is owned by one of the largest "diversified-financial" companies in the world. The company which has submitted a bid to Cook County Board President George Dunne, is Hospital Affiliates Inc., of Nashville, Tennessee. The company owns 25 hospitals and manages another 39,



The powerful Cook County Board, once again in control of Cook County Hospital, announced that a private firm will be hired to "manage" the hospital. Angry Black community leaders have charged Mayor Byrne with a conspiracy to destroy the city's only public hospital for Black and poor people.

employees.

In the final days of November, County Board President George Dunne said he expected to decide which one of several firms would manage the County Hospital "within two weeks," but Hospital Affiliates and Hyatt Medical Management Services of Chicago (owned by the Hyatt Hotel Corp.) were the only bidders as the deadline neared.

On December 4 the County Board announced the firing of 38 top-level administrators and personnel from the staff of the Health and Hospitals Governing Commission. The commission was disbanded in October by the state legislature through a series of bills that put control of the mammoth county hospital once again in the hands of the County Board. Fired were: Dr. James Haughton, executive director of the commission; Glenn Seegers, commission finan-

cial director; Robert Nauert, assistant administrative director; and Vivian Sodini, Haughton's aide. Thirty-four others were discharged and the County Board announced that another 70 unfilled positions were being eliminated.

At the other end of the city-county complex at LaSalle and Randolph, the city's Health Systems Agency released its five-year plan to upgrade health care in the city. The plan, a several thousand page volume, attempts to pinpoint the major sources of illness in the city and major weaknesses in the health care delivery. Sources close to the HSA point to the agency's expanding power to veto or approve federal health care funds to public and private institutions across the city. Both critics and supporters of the HSA say these expanding powers will add considerable leverage to the plan's specific recommendations. The

One of the chief goals of the city's new Health System's Agency Plan is to reduce Cook County Hospital from 1350 beds to 600 beds.

spread throughout the United States. In the Chicago area, Chicago Lakeshore Hospital in Uptown and Riveredge Hospital in Forest Park are operated by the Nashville company. Its parent, Insurance Company of North America, headquartered in Philadelphia, is listed by Fortune magazine as the fourth largest diversified financial company in the United States with \$12 billion in holdings and almost 37,000

CITY NEWS

plan lists one of its chief goals as "the reduction of Cook County Hospital to a 600 bed (down from its present 1,350 beds) hospital by January 1981."

Former supporters of Mayor Byrne believe the HSA recommendation is further proof of the mayor's active role in putting the County Hospital back into the hands of politicians as its end nears.

A joint statement by the Health Awareness Council/Black Church Community and City-Wide Coalition of Black Organizations on December 1, denounced the politicians who "merely paid lip service to their constituents and have worked hand-in-hand to jeopardize the health, stability and well-

being of persons they purport to serve."

Speaking to the *Chicago Defender*, Reverend John Porter, spokesman for the group, singled out the mayor. "The mayor of Chicago made a political linkage with the governor of the state of Illinois and removed the power and authority of Cook County Hospital from Dr. James Haughton, executive director of the hospital's governing commission and seeks to replace it with the Cook County Board....The obvious political conspiracy on the part of Mayor Byrne and Governor Thompson causes us to not only address our...grievances...but also has caused us to mobilize community forces to see to it that the voice

and the needs of the people are heard and adhered to."

While Black community leaders had threatened a recall campaign against Mayor Byrne previously, in the last few months, (primarily for her support for casino gambling in the city) the threat this time appeared more menacing as the mayor's personal role in the destruction of Cook County Hospital becomes clear.

Reverend Porter told the *Defender*, the people spoke when Jane Byrne was elected mayor and those same people would speak if she fails to act positively on the County Hospital issue, "Blacks and poor people put her there...She can be removed." □

Latino Group Charges Local Radio/TV Stations

CHICAGO — The Latino Committee on the Media (LCOM), representing 10 community organizations in the Pilsen-Humboldt Park neighborhoods, has filed petitions with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), to deny the licenses of 21 radio stations and one TV station, WGN-TV in the Chicago area. The group is asking the FCC not to renew the licenses of the 22 stations because they discriminate against Latinos in their hiring practices.

In order for a radio or TV station to broadcast, they must apply for a license from the FCC and provide the government with detailed information on their employment practices. Official forms called "395's" show a statistical breakdown by race, job category, sex and age of

all persons employed by the station. LCOM researched 60 stations in the Chicago area and found "that out of 1,011 employees in the top four categories in Chicago radio sta-

Out of 1,011 employees in top jobs at Chicago radio stations, only 23 are Latino.

tions, only 23 are Latino. Eighteen (18) radio stations with over ten (10) employees do not employ a single Latino in *any* job category. This is discrimination, plain and clear."

Carlos Quintinilla, an active member of LCOM and worker at

Erie House, explains why the group took the action: "WBBM was the first one we investigated and we found out that they had a very small number of Latinos employed in their work force. The Latinos we did find employed there, were visibly clerical and that was a very small number. There was one broadcaster, Chuck Golin, and when he left, Juan Quinones came in. Latinos have no influence, no input in decision-making. There's not a very large number employed as technicians, writers or anything else. You basically find Latinos as secretaries at the bottom level."

"WGN-TV probably has the record for the most discriminatory practices against Latinos. For example, a man named Ed Vargas who received his B.A. from the

New York City College with a major in communications and special emphasis in filmmaking and photography applied at WGN. He had received a masters degree in education from Harvard, where his major area was bilingual, bicultural programming in the media. He was simply determined "not qualified" by WGN and not given a job.

At a series of meetings with WBBM, LCOM discussed their concerns and presented a series of demands. First, WBBM should implement an affirmative action program (active minority hiring) that will increase the number of Latinos working at the station to "parity" with their population in Chicago. "Parity" means that if Chicago's Spanish-speaking population is be-

tween 18 and 20 percent (LCOM points out this statistic does not include much of the Latino community), then close to 20 percent of WBBM's employees should be Latino. Latinos throughout the city have made "parity" a demand in other areas of employment such as the post office and city hall. "The media industry is no different," says Quintinilla. Second, WBBM (and other major stations such as WGN) should actively recruit and hire qualified Latinos for vacant positions in programming and broadcasting. This means also spending money to create training programs to give minorities a chance to become more qualified.

A key issue in LCOM's campaign is to force the local radio and TV stations to hire more Latinos for

jobs in programming. Programmers influence and make decisions about the content of the shows — what actually goes on the air. With the exception of Channel 26, LCOM points out that local TV stations tend to stereotype Latinos by always showing them as street gang members. Television and movies always seem to project Puerto Ricans or Mexicans getting killed in gang wars; they do not look at the social and economic problems that affect the people. "If they (radio and TV stations) are going to do programming about the Latino community who knows more about programming than ourselves?"

While WGN officials refused to make any commitments to an affirmative action program, WMAQ agreed to hire three or four Latino newscasters and associate producers.

Referring to similar campaigns in San Antonio, Texas and California, Quintinilla explained the Committee's first goal. "We're working with community-based job development programs like SER, Erie House and Casa Aztlan. We want to refer people to the stations for jobs, get commitments from them to establish training programs and organize against them if they don't. We've also thought about boycotting different products which advertise on the stations. Like WBBM-TV has Toyota or Nestle products. We think this may be the most effective approach, because when we approached some of the sponsors, WBBM suddenly hired Ed Villareal and Juan Quinones. In addition, we have a door-to-door petition which will be sent out to different organizations. We're doing everything, organizing, providing service (job referrals). It's a comprehensive plan. We want to open the doors." □



Latino youth watching TV. The Latino Committee On the Media wants local radio and TV stations to hire more Latinos for jobs in broadcasting and programming so they can influence the content of the shows.

Chicago Tycoon To Head U.S. Commerce Department

CHICAGO — Prominent wealthy Chicago financier, real estate developer and Democrat, Philip M. Klutznick, whose power and wealth built the Water Tower Place on Michigan Avenue, has been nominated by President Carter to become the next Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Klutznick will replace Juanita Kreps who resigned early in November.

Klutznick, 72, is a member of the powerful Chicago Economic Development Commission (EDC) which administers more than \$20 million a year in federal funds from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). These funds are intended to be used for public works

programs (construction of streets, sewers, roads), loans to small businesses and other commercial projects which create jobs for the unemployed. Cities are eligible for the funds only if they have an acceptable overall economic development plan (OEDP). Since 1976 the city of Chicago and the U.S. Department of Commerce have been the target of a federal lawsuit charging that federal guidelines were violated when the Chicago OEDP was put together. The suit, (KOCO vs. City of Chicago et al), was filed by a coalition of community groups which argued that the city's OEDP committee did not represent minority and unemployed people in the city.

Klutznick organized and became the first chairman of Urban Investment and Development Corp., a multi-billion dollar real estate firm with projects across the nation. In addition to Water Tower Place, Urban owns and operates Oak Brook, Old Orchard Shopping Center and River Oaks, among the nation's largest shopping centers. Urban Investments also is a subsidiary of Aetna Life Insurance Company, one of the top 50 insurance companies in the nation with more than \$15 million in assets (money and property).

Local politicians and business leaders hail Klutznick's career in "public service". Under Roosevelt and Truman, Klutznick served as commissioner of the Federal Public Housing Authority. He also served as an ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council and has been appointed by several Presidents to "special assignments" in foreign countries and here in the United States.

Klutznick sits on the powerful Economic Development Commission which ignores the needs of Chicago's unemployed.



Klutznick's cabinet appointment comes at the same time that Congress is re-writing the entire legislation for the Economic Development Administration, which administers the government programs for public works and jobs. One of Klutznick's first tasks will be to supervise the new \$1.8 billion Development Finance Program which will make grants to private, profit-making businesses in areas where there is high unemployment. The businesses are supposed to use the money to create new jobs of pre-

serve existing ones.

Neighborhood residents who are struggling for control of community development programs view Klutznick's appointment with caution and anger. They point out that Klutznick serves on the board of the Dearborn Park Corporation which built the multi-billion dollar private housing development in the South Loop. Dearborn Park provides condominium housing for middle and upper-income families who are moving back to the city. Klutznick's Urban Investment originally committed more than \$300,000 to get the project going in 1976.

Speaking for one group on the near west side which joined the 1976 lawsuit challenging the city's OEDP, a community leader commented on the Klutznick appointment:

"Making Klutznick head of the Commerce Department is like putting the fox in the chicken coop. He's precisely one of the guys who forces through the policies which dislocate people from our neighborhoods and force industry and jobs to leave the city." □

Rehab Network Tells Byrne: No Displacement!

CHICAGO — On Wednesday, November 21, 1979, members of the Chicago Rehab Network, a coalition of 20 community-based groups involved in housing rehabilitation in communities across the city, met with Mayor Byrne to ask for cooperation in efforts to develop Chicago's neighborhoods without displacing its people.

Slim Coleman, speaking on behalf of the Heart of Uptown Coalition for the Network, stated the problem clearly when he said: "The crisis that is affecting all of our communities is displacement. In many of these communities, we have watched as many as 25 percent of the housing units destroyed in the last four years. New units being constructed or rehabilitated are hardly ever available at rents that low and moderate-income

tenants can afford. Federal housing monies are being usurped by large private developers, who, in return for massive funds, raise the rent or convert to condos. Our communities are dying because of what amounts to a forced evacuation of thousands of our people.

"It is a fact that for people of low and moderate income, even for many now of middle-income, the right to a stable neighborhood is no longer a right in the city of Chicago, and definitely not a reality.

"The actual policy of the city agencies, in practice, is 'revitalization' meaning replacing us with people that some bureaucrats think have more vitality; or 'recovering' the neighborhoods from us, not for us and with us; or 'regentrification'.

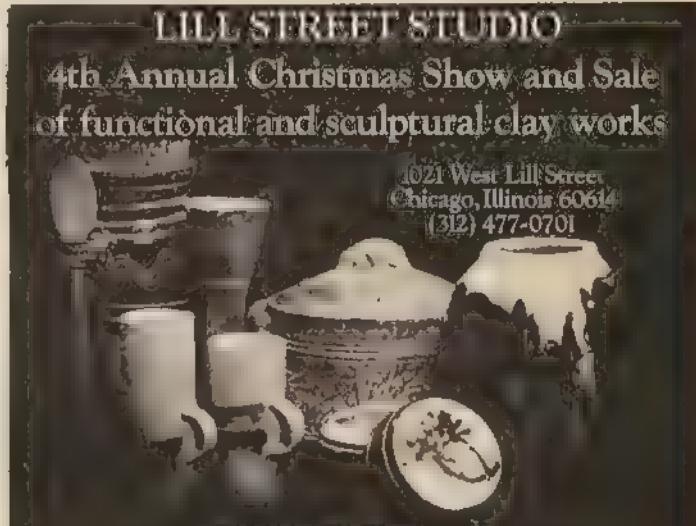
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tion', meaning to 'repeople' our neighborhoods with people that have more money.

"We are here to ask for specific assistance in many of our small but worthy projects. But most important, we want some understanding that the major problem that faces our communities is a process of displacement resembled only by wartime occupations. In anticipation that you might respond to the actual crisis in the neighborhoods, we request that you establish immediately, an emergency Development without Displacement Commission, including top-level heads of city departments and members of these organizations here present and others fighting everyday to stay in their communities."

In addition the Network asked the Mayor to reconsider funding of the Housing Resource Center, the revolving loan fund, and Sweat Equity Homesteading, all proposals which were designed to assist the community-based rehab projects which were not funded by the city. The Coalition requested that the mayor look into various forms of red tape and bureaucratic delays preventing reimbursement vouchers from being paid and give housing rehabilitation projects priority for CETA (federally subsidized job programs for the unemployed) funding.

The mayor who was 1½ hours late for the meeting had to leave before she could really respond to the Network's specific requests. However, Mayor Byrne did state that she agreed with the Network's assessment of the problem and stated that she would study all of the materials submitted by the Network and would set up a follow-up meeting to respond to these requests. □

Mayor Slashes Funds For Health And Services

CHICAGO — It doesn't matter anymore if you drive a VW or a Lincoln, because everybody's vehicle sticker is going to cost \$40 a year. And you better cut down on those long distance phone calls to your sister in Tennessee, because your phone bill is going up. And don't be shocked if the landlord asks for \$10 more on the rent because he's going to pay the city an extra \$34 on his water bill.

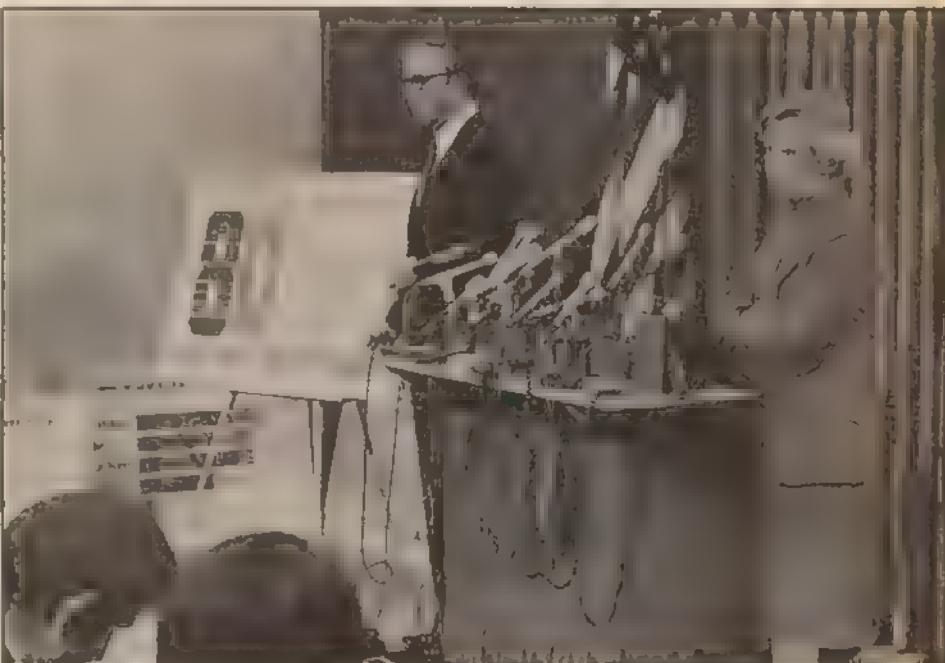
\$40 vehicle stickers, an extra tax on long distance calls and a sewer service charge for homeowners, are just a few examples of new taxes and fees in Mayor Byrne's record \$1.4 billion 1980 budget. The new budget will bring the city an additional \$99.4 million in new taxes

and fees, lay off 700 city workers and create six new city departments.

But for the Black and poor people in the neighborhoods, "the city budget doesn't mean very much," says Alderman Danny Davis of the 29th ward. "It's an austerity budget in many ways."

One example Davis cites are cuts in the Department of Health. "The city of Chicago has never had a great deal of concern about health in the first place," the independent Black alderman stated.

Although Mayor Byrne boasts in her budget message that the Department of Health will now take over the lead paint poisoning program and "shift its focus" to preventive health care, the budget fig-



Mayor Byrne and Budget Director Donald Haider. The city's 1980 budget cuts millions of dollars from health programs and human services and totally eliminates the Commission on Human Relations. "The city budget doesn't mean very much for Black and poor people," comments Alderman Danny Davis.

ures tell a different story. More than \$3 million has been slashed

The following are some of the programs that have been significantly slashed by Byrne's 1980 Budget:

Pediatric Service	43.5%
Chronic Disease Control	59.2%
Immunization	62.9%
Neighborhood Service Systems (Community Service Centers	70.2%

from programs including hypertension control, immunization programs and public health nursing. Mental health programs on the other hand, receive increased funding, over \$4 million.

The new budget also shows significant cuts and reorganization in the human services. Mayor Byrne eliminated the Office on Child Care Services and cut the amount of matching funds the city would make available for Title XX Day Care programs. The funds were reduced from \$4.2 million to \$2.1 million. Yet the number of single working mothers and fathers in the Chicago area has increased in recent years, making low-cost quality child care a "survival" need.

The Department of Human Services, which replaced the old Model Cities programs, will consolidate units and services which means less neighborhood service centers. Funds in the budget to DHS have been cut from \$5,070,458 to \$3,545,865 although Mayor Byrne maintains the housing programs administered by DHS will be taken over by the newly created Department of Housing.

Another key agency eliminated by the re-organization is the Chicago Commission on Human Rela-

tions (CHR), the oldest municipal civil rights agency in the country, established in 1947. The commission handled complaints of discrimination in housing and employment and was the only non-police agency in the country to investigate charges of police brutality. Nobody knows what city department will take over.

Commenting on the general reorganization of the city government, Alderman Davis commented, "The essential services being provided by the city will continue. But some new departments like the Department of Public Safety are not necessary. I don't know what it does, except cost the taxpayers money." (\$484,000 in 1980). While Alderman Davis thinks that the new Department of Inspections, which takes on many inspectional services, including building code violations, "might make sense" he cautiously states that the personnel must be properly trained and monitored. The new bureau is headed by former police intelligence officer, Lt. William Duggan.

Mayor Byrne had stated that her proposed budget attempts to make up for a \$98.9 million deficit. Under the Bilandic administration costs for such things as employee hospitalization and landfill fees (maintaining the city dumps) were grossly underestimated. This led to \$98.9 million deficit. The city was simply spending more than it budgeted.

Critics of the mayor and community leaders pointing to the \$49.3 million committed to health and welfare services for 1980, next to half a billion for police and fire and \$225 million for streets and sanitation, believe the mayor's promise to work with the neighborhoods has become just a line from an old campaign. □

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Hannon Quits In Midst Of Worst School Cash Crisis

CHICAGO — In the midst of the Board of Education's worst financial crisis in Chicago history, school superintendent Joseph Hannon resigned last month and ordered 1,700 layoffs and a massive budget cut of \$70 million. He gave no reason for his decision, but most sources say the board's failure to sell \$124.6 million in short-term notes to avoid a default to Chicago banks was a key factor.

The crisis was triggered last month when the Chicago Board of Education almost ran out of money. When the board realized it only had \$32.8 million in the bank, had to meet a November payroll and repay \$89 million to Chicago banks, they decided to sell \$124.6 million in short term "notes" to get the cash.

But nobody would buy the bonds.

On the eve of the sale, Moody's, a top-bond rating firm, dropped their rating on the school notes, in effect they were telling the public it was risky business to lend the Board of Education money; they might not get paid back on time. A few days later, Standard and Poor's, another prestigious bond-rating service, slashed the rating on school bonds (long term borrowing).

The Chicago Board of Education receives no money from the city of Chicago to run the schools. They depend on federal and state funds; money from property taxes collected at the end of the year and money they borrow from the banks, usually through bond sales. The

money from the bond sales is supposed to go for operating expenses — paying the bills and salaries.

When the board makes up its budget each year, they "anticipate" how much money they will collect from the property taxes and how much from the state and federal government. Currently, state funds provide 49.1 percent of the \$1.4 billion schools' budget and federal funds make up 13.7 percent.

But the property taxes never get paid on time.

In order to meet the payroll for nearly 50,000 employees, keep the schools running for 475,000 students and pay the banks on time the board sells "tax anticipation warrants" (short-term notes) until taxes are collected. That is what the board did in November when they tried to sell \$124.6 million in notes which no one would buy.

A spokesman for Standard and Poor's told KEEP STRONG why nobody would buy the notes: "The board has been in a constant state of short-term borrowing. They have to go into more debt to pay off their debts." It's like going to a bank to borrow money to pay off your credit card bills. You become a credit junkie. Since 1973 the board had been dipping into its sinking fund (tax money which is set aside to pay off the banks) to pay day-to-day bills. "But this was the first time they disclosed it," the Standard and Poor spokesman said. "You could say there's been misrepresentation." Most financial



Chicago classrooms may soon be empty if the Board of Education goes broke in the midst of its worst financial crisis.

experts in the city maintain that dipping into restricted funds like this is not "sound." The reason the board almost defaulted on repayment to the banks was that last summer, when it couldn't pay its bills, they took \$43 million from the sinking fund. This money was part of the \$89 million due to the banks on Nov. 26.

In a last minute huddle to come up with the cash or persuade the banks to buy the notes, Mayor Byrne and her budget director Don

Haider, met with Continental Bank and First National Bank officials and Superintendent Hannon. But the banks did not flinch: they would not buy the school bonds unless the city or state guaranteed them. The city said "no."

The state bailed the board out by advancing them \$37 million. This is the amount the schools receive monthly from the state for general operating expenses, but they can only make the advance once.

What is being done to keep Chicago schools open?

At the November board meeting, Hannon announced the cuts and layoffs as an immediate step. Among the positions eliminated are 500 jobs in special education and 200 assistant principals. Some schools may be closed altogether. Significant cuts are being made in purchasing equipment, books and supplies, which already averages less than \$10 a year per student at some elementary schools. Hannon stated: "Some employees will lose their job, others will be reduced in grade, (demoted to lower-paying jobs) all will experience a financial loss."

While Hannon, the board and Mayor Byrne talked about tightening the belt around the school's budget, the city council Finance Committee approved a request from the Chicago Public Building Commission (PBC) to spend \$1.3

Chicago may be heading down the same road as New York City. The schools have run out of money.

million to purchase 7 townhouses in Dearborn Park for an elementary school. The school will serve 500 - 600 children who live in the upper-income housing development located in the South Loop.

The PBC originally purchased the old railroad station in Dearborn Park but found it was too costly to renovate. Now they will buy seven townhouses from the Dearborn Park Corporation, for \$385,000, spend about \$1 million to fix them up as a school, lease them to the Board of Education and in three

years the PBC will sell the buildings back to the corporation.

Community and civic groups concerned with quality education point to several problems with the way the Chicago schools are financed and operated. Some cite declining enrollment and decreased state aid. In the last five years the number of students who attend Chicago schools has dropped from 526,000 to 475,000. Others point out that the Board of Education owns more property than any other single public or private institution in the city; with real estate holdings totalling \$1,434,000, including land such as Midway Airport.

Some who are closer to city government feel Chicago may be heading down the same road as New York City. Over the years New York kept borrowing money to pay off the banks which had loaned billions of dollars to keep the city operating. But the city never got out of debt. When it finally came to a choice of paying off the banks or paying city workers, New York closed the schools and hospitals and laid off thousands of city workers. □



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Abortion Rights Week Held In Over 100 Cities

By Debbie Wolen

CHICAGO — National Abortion Rights Week, October 22-29, was organized in over 100 cities across the country. In Chicago activities planned by grassroots women's groups focused on the issues of abortion rights, contraception, health hazards and reproductive freedom in the workplace, sterilization abuse and the organized attack on abortion rights by the political right wing. Educational programs were held on these issues in communities and on college campuses.

The National Alliance of Black Feminists (NABF), along with Operation PUSH, presented a forum on abortion rights and contraception at the Drexel YWCA on the city's southside. Based in Chicago, the NABF is an organization of Black women who are working to eliminate racism and sex discrimination and provide services.

Sterilization abuse hits minority and poor women the hardest. Two groups, *Mujeres Latinas en Acción* (Latin Women In Action) and Women Organized for Reproductive Choice (WORC), co-sponsored a program at the *Latinas Mujeres* community center in Pilsen. Dozens of Latina women from the neighborhood attended. They discussed the notorious history of medical experimentation and sterilization abuse on poor and minority women. For example, in the 1950's the birth control pill was "tested" on Puerto Rican women. When only a "few" women died of heart attacks from the pill medical re-

searchers declared it was "safe" to try on women in the U.S.

Working women fighting for the right to decide whether and when to have children are trying to make their workplaces healthier and safer. During the week, the Chicago Area Committee On Occupational Safety and Health (CACOSH) women's group, District 31 Steelworkers' women's caucus and WORC had a program on reproductive rights and health hazards in the workplace. More than 60 people, mainly workers, attended the workshop held at the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Hall, 303 S. Ashland. A few officials from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) also attended. The effects of lead poisoning and other chemical poisoning on workers' general health and ability to bear children were discussed. WORC and CACOSH now have ongoing work groups to address and explore these issues.

In a program at the Parish of the Holy Covenant Church a WORC research committee presented information on recent right-wing attacks on abortion rights.

Abortion Rights Week ended October 27 at a public demonstration for abortion rights held at Daley Plaza. Several hundred women cheered as Alice Peruala, President of Local 65, USWA, asked them to continue fighting for the reproductive freedom of all women. □

Debbie Wolen works with Women Organized For Reproductive Choice (W.O.R.C.) in Chicago.

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CONSUMER NOTEBOOK:

HUD Seeks Tenants Eligible For Refunds

Up to \$500 in refunds are available to some 750,000 tenants in the nation, who lived in Section 236 federally subsidized but privately-owned rental housing, from February 1, 1975 to September 30, 1977.

A total of \$60 million is available for rebates as a result of a class-action suit filed over three years ago against HUD and recently settled. The suit successfully argued that owners of the 236 buildings

were illegally passing along increased operating costs to the tenants and HUD did not make available money, authorized by Congress, that would have gone to the landlords to offset higher utility expenses and taxes.

Applications for the refund must be in by January 31, 1980. Tenants who still reside in 236 buildings should have already received an application from their building manager. Tenants who have since

moved out, may call a toll-free number, 800-824-7980 for assistance, or in Chicago, call the Legal Assistance Foundation at 341-1070.

The refunds are not applicable to CHA housing and other housing programs. The following is a partial list of buildings in Chicago that are 236 apartments.

820 Belle Plaine
833 Buena
4416-26 N. Clifton
4848 N. Winthrop
3639 N. Pine Grove
707 W. Waveland
4640 N. Sheridan
840 W. Sunnyside

No Utility Cut-Offs — 32° Or Below

Illinois utility companies cannot turn off service when the temperature is 32 degrees or below, under a new ruling by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). Previously the no cut-off temperature was set at 20 degrees or below.

The ruling states that gas or electricity cannot be shut-off if the National Weather Service predicts up to 24 hours ahead of time that the temperature will be 32 degrees or below. In other words, if you receive a gas shut-off notice for Tuesday and on Monday night the forecast is for 32 degrees or below, your service cannot be turned off. However, if on Wednesday the temperature goes above freezing, your service may be disconnected. The commission says the ruling will apply from December 1 to April 1.

In a related move, the commission also ordered Illinois utilities to search out customers

whose service was cancelled since May 1 because of non-payment and offer to restore service if a deferred payment plan and future budget plan are established. Both rulings are aimed at preventing shut-

offs — especially to seniors and low-income families — due to skyrocketing heating costs.

For more information, call the ICC Consumer Assistance Division at 793-2850. □

Vets Can Upgrade Bad Paper

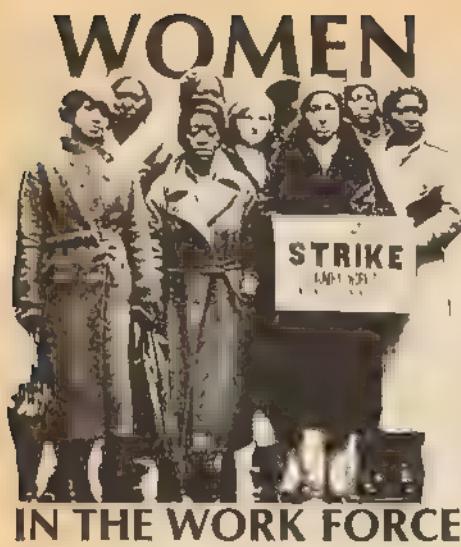
The American Civil Liberties Union opened a toll-free phone line (1-800/424-5402) October 15 to help 2.2 million veterans with less than honorable discharges change their discharge status. All veterans or next of kin of any veteran discharged before 1965 with any "undesirable" or "blue" discharge certificate have until December 31 of this year to file an application to change that status before a Discharge Review Board.

According to the ACLU, approx-

imately 155,300 veterans in Illinois (roughly 10 percent of all veterans in the state) have "bad paper" — less than honorable discharges.

The Department of Defense regulations set a December 31, 1979 deadline for veterans with Undesirable Discharges issued before 1965 (at least 2.2 million veterans) and for any other veterans with "general" or "bad conduct" discharges issued before 1965 to apply for a change if they had been previously turned down.

A spokesman for the ACLU said only 10,000 veterans in the country have filed. An extension is being sought in an effort to allow more veterans to file. □



IN THE WORK FORCE

On The Line At

Bell and Howell

Naomi Blackburn is one of the more than 44 million American women who work outside their homes. In Chicago, alone, women make up more than 45 percent of the labor force. Here's her story of how she "bust ass" on the assembly line at Bell and Howell for nine years.

Naomi Blackburn, who lives with her husband Tommy in Albany Park on Chicago's northwest side, is one of more than 12.9 million women in this country who work in factories such as the Bell & Howell plant in Skokie, Illinois. Naomi worked there for nine years on an assembly line making Bell and Howell's famous movie projectors which sell on the market for more than \$250 each. American women who do assembly work and get paid by the hour earn an average of \$3.48 an hour. This compares with

an average hourly wage for men of \$5.52 an hour.

In Part I of a new series, "Women In The Work Force" Naomi Blackburn describes her experience at Bell and Howell. Naomi continues to work full time, attends Shimer College in the evenings, and is active with the Chicago Area Black Lung Association.

I was brought up in the hills of Pikeville, Kentucky and only went to eighth grade. At the age of 15 I got married to my

husband, who worked in the coal mines for 15 years.

The reason we left Kentucky and came up to Michigan and then Chicago was that he was only getting two or three days work a week. You couldn't live on just two or three days pay. If we came to the city we both could work. Rent would be a lot higher but, of course, we would have two incomes. So, in 1950 we came to Michigan.

Tommy got a job at the Chrysler Corp. making automobiles, but that's seasonal work. You work real



good for two or three months and then you're off for two or three months. So when my kids were old enough to be in kindergarten, I decided I had to go to work for a living. I had no experience, I'd just been a housewife and worked on a farm. But my brother-in-law knew a woman who worked in a restaurant. He told her I had no experience but I was a "good worker." She talked to the boss and they decided to give me a try. I went to work on the night shift in the restaurant and ended up staying there

six years. I started off at \$2.13 an hour plus tips.

When we came to Chicago in 1956, Tommy went on construction work, and from construction to factories. But it's seasonal, too.

During the summer, work is plentiful, but they don't have much in the wintertime. He went from one factory to another and for the past four years he hasn't been working at all.

At C.P. Claire's in Chicago, I worked in the day and my husband at night so one of us could take care

of the children. I didn't like it but it saved \$35 a week in babysitting bills. I worked at C.P. Claire's for 9 years on a variety of jobs, but believe me it was hard. Working all day long, then coming home and washing diapers at night....As the children got older I had to wash and iron their clothes. I didn't have much time to spend with my children so on Saturday I took them to a movie and on Sunday, too. I enrolled them at the McCormick Boys' Club where they could go for the evening and play while I was at work.

I left C.P. Claire's in 1967 because there was a rumor the plant was going to close down and then I went to Bell and Howell. I desperately needed money and a job to feed my kids. Tommy was working at the time but he wasn't making much. He was a machine operator on Elston Avenue but wasn't getting paid for overtime. I stayed at Bell and Howell for nine years.

B

Bell and Howell was what I call a "slave house," the slave hole. They had quite a few men, but the majority of the workers were women. The women worked on the conveyor belts and assembly lines, making projectors on one line and tape recorders on the other. Those projectors are the size of a small TV. When it starts out on the assembly line it's not too heavy, but by the time it gets down to the eighth girl it's as heavy as a TV set.

Bell and Howell has the "rate" system and the "bonus system." Their policy is do or die. A woman's got to be a good, fast worker. If you don't do it fast and right, you don't last there.

There were 11 women on my line and us 11 women had to make 234 projectors a day and we had no breaks. Well, they had to give the women breaks, coffee breaks, but

Bell and Howell

with the "bonus" system those women wanted to make money, so for anything over 234 we made, we got a bonus and we divided it 11 ways. Those women wanted to make money so they would sit, give up their breaks, and work during break. If you didn't give up your break and go along with them you were casted as a square. So a lot of times I've done that.

And the rates were high. You see, they gave the women these bonuses, so we made more than the 234, we made, say 250. Then three weeks later the engineer and the rate men from upstairs come down and say "Well, these women they did 250 last week, that means they can do it" so they raise the rate to 250. 250 would be day pay, so if you wanted extra money, you'd have to do more.

Many of the women, including myself, started bringing our parts home, to put the bolts and screws on, so we could keep up. The

"Women just go beserk,

company is unaware that we did this. But when the rate was up to 275 a day, there was no way you could make it unless you brought the screws home. So you got your thermos bottle (that's a good quart) and you can put quite a few screws in there and down here (points to her blouse). The company would die if they knew that, but their rates were so high you had no other way of making it. I'd bring the parts home and my children and I would sit around the floor and we'd put them together to save me time. I even used to get my husband to join in. My husband would do like 10 or 15 and he'd say, "When it gets that you got to do something like this, to hell with it, you can quit."

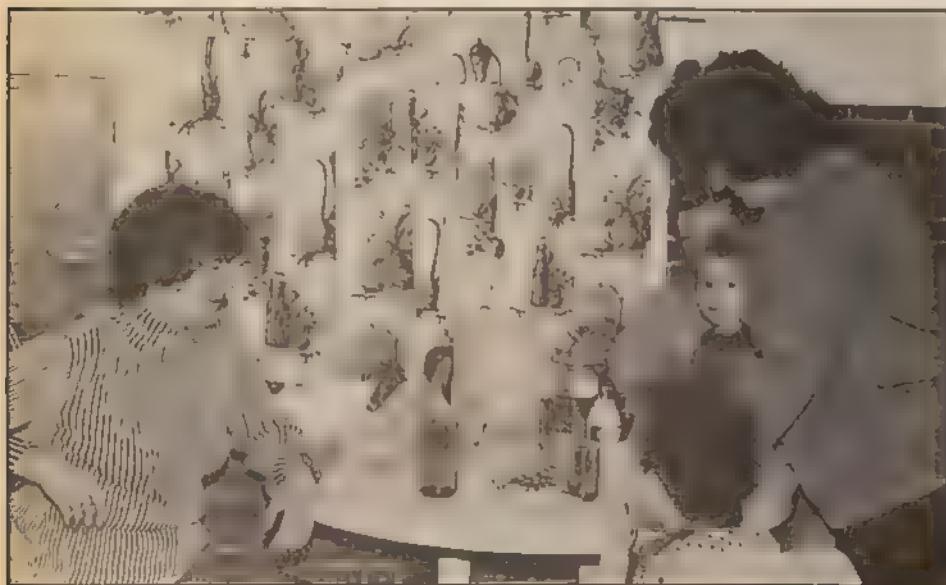
If you wanted to go to the washroom you could not leave your place. You had to hold up your hand like in school. If your foreman happened to be around to see you he'd call the relief operator. She's usually in the back, gabbing and gossiping. Finally, in

half an hour or 45 minutes you'd let them know you had to go to the washroom and if you hadn't wet the floor by then you'd manage to go. Most women went to the washroom on their lunch hour. They'd eat for 20 minutes and go to the washroom the other 10. Bell and Howell knows this, but they shove the word "MONEY" on you and they know these women are going to work themselves to death.

There definitely is discrimination. Men always have priority to women. Even if you get hired the same day as a man they'll put the woman on the hard machine and they'll put the man on sanding down glass or washing glass parts or some simple job like cutting wires. I guess they know a woman will always turn it out, so they put her on the tough jobs. Even my husband will tell you. He worked at Bell and Howell with me. They put him on the drill press and they gave him a pair of pliers. When we went home at night he'd say, "Well, I'll make dinner tonight because I know you must be tired from piddling on that machine all day long."

Everytime I'd be looking up I'd see my old man going to coffee breaks, not the regular coffee breaks, but the coffee breaks in between. All some of them have to do is bring the women a few boxes of screws, cut 2,000 or 3,000 wires and that's their day's work. But women sit there welding or on the punch press and they've got to put out 800 or 900 things a day. A lot of the time the women are pregnant, and they're still punching that press.

At Bell and Howell if a woman gets pregnant that's her tough luck.



Naomi Blackburn serves coffee to her family at her son's house. Picture above, with Naomi, are, left to right: daughter-in-law Vivian; son Larry; granddaughter Chrissy, 3 (on Larry's lap); and grandson Jerry, 7.

throw their tools in the air and leave."

You had no business getting pregnant. You just go on the line and work on your job like you've been on the job for years. You keep lifting these big projectors. I knew two girls to work there, go home and have their babies that night. They have to hide it from the company, though. They tell the nurse they're two months less than they are. After a girl comes back she'll get a job, but you may have to take a lower paying job.

I've seen them fire women for vulgar language or refusing to do a job. They'd be working on one assembly line and the boss decides he wants to "lend" them to another line, where the projectors may be heavier. If they refused to go they'd fire them. But they don't tell you, "If you don't go you're fired." "If a girl says no, the boss says, "Well, that's fine with me, you're fired."

I've seen some women just go berserk and throw their tools in the air and leave. My sister went out there to work about 2 or 3 weeks (she just wanted a new furniture set). She lasted three hours. When they put her on the job she told them, "This is enough." I've seen a lot of women sit and work and cry at the same time. They've got no husband, they just can't quit. They're thinking that their kids are going to starve and they've got to pay rent. They cry, right on the job, they don't have time to get up and go to the washroom to have their cry. They're afraid to say anything because they'll get fired.

They've tried to bring a union in. A lot of the women, especially the colored women thought that the bosses were playing favorites to pretty girls and the ones with the pretty figures. "I'm an older



Naomi Blackburn has worked for nearly 30 years. "I never had time for myself. I often wondered why I wasn't rich. I always wanted to get my education, but I didn't want to leave my kids. I had to leave my kids just to make a living for them."

woman," they'd say, "with four kids to support and I can't get that higher paying job to save my life." But they'll turn around and put some young, pretty girl on it who's only been here a year.

Charles Percy was president of the company then and he said, "We'll listen to your side of it and we'll do things better." So they gave us an election in the cafeteria, for or against the union. Everytime the union was voted out I know that I voted for one. I think it had something to do with Bell and Howell. I don't think they wanted to be bothered with one so I think they mistallied the votes. As far as

the discrimination went, Percy said, "We'll fix it. We'll see to it that the foreman can't put the good-looking girls on the job all the time."

On a typical day I'd get up in the morning at 4 a.m. get my kids' clothes ready for school, give them lunch money or else pack their lunch, fix my own clothes...no breakfast, just a cup of coffee and then on to work. I'd work eight hours out there like a slave; then I'd come home, go to the neighbors, get my children and go home to make dinner. The children would have homework; you've got to have some time out for the kids. I'm not about to send them back and have



"Bell and Howell was what I call a 'slave house.'"

them tell the teacher that mother didn't help them. Then you just want to sit and give them five or ten minutes. You put them to bed and then you finally get into bed yourself. It's 11:30 by then and you just fall out.

I never had time for myself. I often wondered why I wasn't rich. But I knew that I had to do this and I'd go to work even if I was aggravated, depressed or what have you. I had my problems; my kids would get sick or they'd have a problem at school. I'd always call in and say "I may be coming in late, but I'll be there." So I'd go to the school and see what the problem was and then go on to work, kidding, joking, carrying on like I didn't have a problem in the world when I had a lot of them.

After nine years I left Bell and Howell. I started to get arthritis in my arm from reaching up to get those big electric guns. You've got to know how to pull them down right and how to use them. If you don't release it right away that thing will keep right on turning and grind right on down. I could hardly stand it, my arm was bothering me so bad, and all those working conditions — short breaks, short lunches, having to work and having a family to take care of. It was like a concentration camp, the way I

looked at it.

When you're there two years they give you a little pin and when you're there 5 years they give you this gold-plated necklace and when you're there 50 years they give you a gold-plated watch. The foreman will bring it to you on the line and give it to you with a little speech and a pat on the back. But you don't stop working when he presents it because you got 14 projectors on the line that's jamming up so you have to keep working. They tell you, "Keep working; I've got something for you." So they make their speech and give you a pat on the back. But you never stop working to take your eyes or your hand off that job.

I always wanted to get an education, but growing up I never could afford it. When I had my children I felt I couldn't get an education; I didn't want to leave my kids. I had to leave my kids just to make a living for them. I didn't want to go to school at night and be away from them all night and all day at work. So when my children were grown my ambition was to get a master's degree but I find that time ain't going to let it happen. So if I can just get my BA or BS degree before I die, and if I die and get it the next day they can take the diploma and bury me with it. I have earned it. //

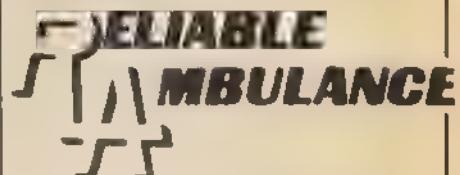
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Uptown Chicago Commission: Front, Fraud Or Fiction?

A group of northside real estate operators, speculators and developers, have been acting under the cover of a "respected" Uptown community organization for over a dozen years, according to information revealed in a **KEEP STRONG** investigation.

The 25 year-old Uptown Chicago Commission (UCC), founded by Clement Stone (Combined Insurance), has long been known as a strong supporter of real estate development in Uptown.

Its role in the destruction of an Uptown neighborhood was difficult to identify until now.

In 1963, the commission received \$60,000 in private grants (from eight corporations) to conduct a planning and development study of Uptown. Jack Meltzer Associates was hired to "survey" the community and produce a plan for Uptown.

Edmund Pabst, former president of the commission and an executive officer at Combined Insurance, later explained the impact of the study: "Largely through the efforts of the Uptown Chicago Commission and its Meltzer Plan, the Uptown area was declared a conservation area in 1965. We feel certain that we are now on the way to a revitalized and rehabilitated area within the near future."

In 1968 the UCC approved the city's urban renewal plan designat-

ing the area from Lawrence to Wilson between Winthrop and Sheridan as a shopping and residential area. The Meltzer report had targeted the area specifically.

As late as 1970 the four blocks that were "targeted" made up two small but stable communities. Winthrop, from Wilson to Lawrence, was the oldest Black community on the northside. A number of families owned their own homes. The

community was established in the 1920's by people who worked as housemaids, cooks and chauffeurs for the elite of Evanston.

Kenmore Street was different. Southern Whites and Native Americans filled out the 200 apartments crammed onto two blocks. While racially tense from time to time, the community was whole. There was a Black night club at Winthrop and Leland, two Southern White bars, one at Kenmore and Lawrence and one at Kenmore and Leland; a grocery; a shoe repair; a barber; a restaurant; a laundromat; a dry cleaners; a couple of second-hand stores; even a take-out barbecue place.

But that was 1970 and things were changing even by then. The Meltzer plan attracted a wave of speculators, slumlords and bleeders. Within three years of the



For more than 25 years the Uptown Chicago Commission, claiming to be "the" organization in Uptown, watched buildings like 4655 N. Kenmore, owned by slumlord Charlie Roberts, bleed to death.



Aerial view of Kenmore and Leland — the heart of the Truman Square rehab project. Investors, including many UCC board members like John Starr, will get a 250 percent return on their money in two years.

1968 designation the community was under siege.

Michael Centanne picked up the 20-unit building at Kenmore and Lawrence (the building had five or six storefronts on the Lawrence side) and a 12-flat at 4627-31 N. Winthrop. Centanne, friend of committeeman Ed Kelly (47th), and Anthony Laurino (39th), is still sought by state investigators for illegal real estate practices. The Winthrop building was empty by the end of 1973; burned and demolished by mid-1974. The building at Lawrence and Kenmore lasted a couple more years.

Charlie Roberts and Joe Sadacca, together responsible for the destruction of more than 20 buildings in Uptown, bought both buildings on the south corners of Leland and Kenmore. For the next six years, Roberts and company took in tens of thousands of dollars on the buildings; robbing checks, defaulting gas, electric and water bills, having the building set on fire for insurance. When they were done a small boy was dead and the buildings were left as burned-out shells.

The buildings at 4628 and 4645 N. Kenmore had been in the Malisoff family since the early 1960's.

By 1970 Sonny and Earl Malisoff were on their way to becoming the "darlings" of New Town with the construction of their Century Mall Shopping Center. The Meltzer report and designation told them it was time to move in Uptown. They sold the building on contract (cash up, cash payments monthly, no mortgage) to a succession of really small-time operators who juiced the buildings as long as they could. The building at 4645 Kenmore was burned to the ground in 1974. The one at 4628 Kenmore burned three times from 1972 to 1978. No one bothered to put it back together after the last fire.

The list goes on — Bill Strickland, Moshe Menorah (an operator of flea bag hotels with a direct line to the Department of Human Services, Illinois Department of Public Aid and the relocation section of the Department of Urban Renewal); Max Dolin; Zoltan Klien — 4649 Kenmore, 4635 Kenmore, 4710 Kenmore, 4715 Kenmore, 4720 Kenmore, 4711 Winthrop, 4717 Winthrop, 4721 Winthrop, 4748 Winthrop. Almost 200 units vacated or destroyed. One hundred major fires in eight years; 12 a year; one major fire a month; month

after month, year after year.

In late September of this year, a private investment group, headed by two members of the board of the Uptown Chicago Commission proudly announced the Truman Square Plan for the Winthrop-Sheridan-Wilson-Lawrence area.

Declaring he had formed a limited partnership with 26 others, John Starr stated that he was trying to get \$285 thousand from the city for the project. UCC advisory board member Gerhard Umlauf, president of the Bank of Chicago, announced that his bank had committed \$400,000 to the project. The limited partnership protects the identity of investors who want to stay in the background. Presently, it is not known who they are or how much they or Starr have sunk into the project. But Starr has said privately that investors were guaranteed a 250 percent return on their money within two years.

Starr, proud to point out, "We're not moving anybody out. We're not like McHugh-Levin," neglected to mention who he bought his buildings from. At the time the Truman Square project was announced Starr had already bought the huge courtyard that Dolins had wrecked, burned and abandoned at 4748 Winthrop; both Roberts' buildings at Kenmore and Leland; 4628 Kenmore from the Malisoffs; 4701 Kenmore from Moshe Menorah and the wasted structure at 4719 Winthrop.

Asked his reaction to the project, another UCC advisory board member, Alderman Ralph Axelrod (46th), who sat back for six years as ward committeeman and alderman while Roberts, Malisoff, Menorah and Centanne were doing the tango in and out of building court and gutting the community, responded, "I'd rather have the development than vacant buildings."

Uptown Chicago Commission: Profile

Structure and Membership

The Uptown Chicago Commission was founded in 1955. Former commission president Roger Reynolds described the formation of the group in a 1967 edition of the *Argyle News* (a small community bulletin) like this: "In 1953, the Central Uptown Chicago Association (now the Uptown Chamber of Commerce) launched a program of neighborhood conservation. Some three years later, these same perceptive businessmen recognized that the important task of maintaining a healthy community required more energy than they could properly give. The Uptown Chamber relinquished this aspect of its program and helped create the commission. On the night of November 16, 1955 history was made. In a meeting at the Edgewater Beach Hotel, the Uptown Chicago Commission was born."

The driving force in the early days was Clement Stone (million dollar Nixon contributor and dyed-in-the-wool supporter of the ousted president), and his company Combined Insurance. Combined has erected its corporate headquarters at 5050 N. Broadway.

While the commission makes claims to being "truly democratic" with "a board elected by the mem-

bership," the UCC board and its sister advisory board have been dominated since its inception by banks and others with major investment interests in Uptown.

Represented on its 1978-79 board are: Bankers Life and Casualty Co.; Uptown Chamber of Commerce; Thorek Medical Center; Uptown National Bank (twice); Irving R. Levine Management Co. (IRMCO — operators of Lawrence House and Chelsea House, senior retirement hotels); Uptown Federal Savings and Loan and Combined Insurance.

(Bank of Chicago), Richard Ostrom and Charles Goodrich (Uptown National Bank); Hospitals — Phillip Thorek and Peter Pierdinock (Thorek Medical Center), Robert Cross (Weiss Memorial Hospital); also James Cain of Uptown Federal Savings and Loan; Eugene Matanky of Matanky Real Estate and W. Clement Stone.

Political Ties

The presence of three "machine" politicians on the organization's prestigious advisory board disrupts its claim to be "apolitical." Its ties to the Democratic Party, specifically the Tuchow and Axelrod ward organizations are more direct. UCC executive director Herb Williams, a former director of social services at Illinois Masonic Hospital, went to work for State Representative William Marovitz (see KS, Aug. 1979, "The Great Grocery Store Robbery") and joined Martin Tuchow's 48th ward regular Democratic organization in 1974. Williams had sought independent support for his own bid for the 12th district seat, but was rejected. Williams' wife, Carol, was hired by the city Department of Human Services soon after. Her sponsor was William Marovitz.

Board member Kathy Osterman



Clement Stone



Herb Williams

The commission's claim to "represent" the Uptown community rests on the active participation of 17 area block clubs. While most of these block clubs are represented on the organization's board, the size of their membership and the nature of their activities is unclear. But sources close to the commission report that the real power is vested in the "advisory board" and that this second group sets the direction for the organization. The membership of the advisory board includes three machine politicians — Martin Tuchow, Ralph Axelrod and Robert Cherry; Utility Companies — Thomas McGough (People's Gas), William Onderdonk (Commonwealth Edison); Banks — Gerhard Umlauf



Kathy Osterman (left); Ralph Axelrod (right)

(from IRMCO's Lawrence House) neither lives nor works in the 46th ward. Yet Osterman worked with Williams to recruit outsiders to bolster Axelrod's sagging ward organization before his narrow (200 votes) election last April.

Former commission president Ross Harano, now a vice-president at the Bank of Chicago, ran unsuccessfully for 48th ward alderman in 1978. Harano was active as a driver and companion to Axelrod in the February and April 1979 elections. Harano joined UCC advisory board member Gerhard Umlauf in a last-minute, closed-door appeal to the editorial board of *The Chicago Sun-Times*, not to endorse Helen Shiller as the most qualified candidate for 46th ward alderman in the April election.

Direction

"As more lower class families move into Uptown, and as the area experiences the problems associated with this group, middle class residents feel pressure to move out, and in so doing, actually accelerate the general decline in the housing stock and the physical decay of the area....

"The Black influx has the most potential for creating significant problems. The major settlement has been in the Kenmore-Winthrop corridor, where we have a combination of deteriorated housing, low-income housing and new investors attempting to bring buildings back up....

"The Black immigration has brought an increase of unemployed to the area as well as new street behavior which, with all of its other problems, is new to Uptown, congregating on street corners, fish fries on the sidewalk, increased public drinking and verbal intimidation (including increased pan-

handling). The residences, with the exception of low-income housing in which Blacks reside, will be the first to go in any significant rehabilitation of the community. These are areas for potential confrontations in the future." (From an Uptown Chicago Commission document dated early 1970's.)

A group organized and led by Clement Stone could hardly be expected to try to represent the majority of people in a community like Uptown. Recently, the commission gained city-wide notoriety for its all-out support for conversion of rental apartments to condominiums. Even longtime real estate people around the city were shocked when executive director Herb Williams announced that "Uptown's renovated condominiums are drawing people into the community who want to be part of the process of revitalization. Before condominium conversions came to Uptown, the alternative was slum landlords, abandonment or demolition." Williams, it turns out, was speaking authoritatively. He had just made almost \$100,000 on the conversion of a 6-flat at 4826 N. Kenmore to condominiums, the first major venture of his newly formed Williams' Enterprises.

In 1974 the commission was starting to receive bad publicity about its financial problems. The main topic of discussion at the November board meeting was "how to sell the program of the commission." Duncan Randall, then UCC president, spelled out what steps had to be taken to boost the organization's image: "Mr. Randall reported from the executive committee that the goals for the existence of the commission are: working to make Uptown a better place to live — helping those who have investments in Uptown protect their investments." □

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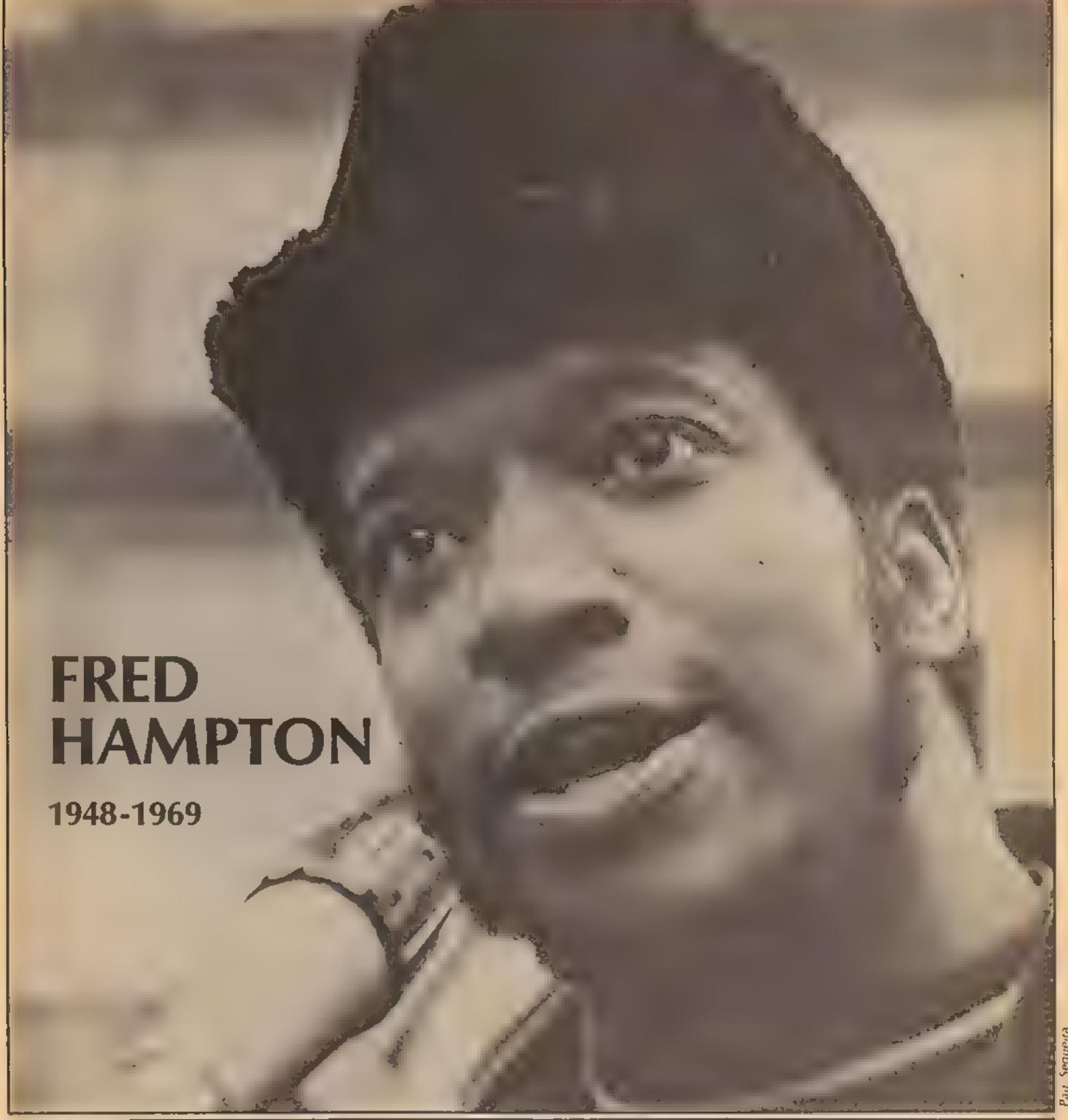
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**Ten Years After
The Murder Of Fred Hampton
A Collective Dedication**

Building The Black Panther Party

Ronald "Doc" Satchel worked side-by-side with Fred Hampton building the famous Black Panther Party survival programs which served thousands in Chicago. He recalls the enormous contribution Fred Hampton and the Black Panther Party made to the lives of Black and poor people.

By Ronald "Doc" Satchel

On December 4, 1969 at 4:30 a.m. the apartment where I was staying that night at 2337 W. Monroe, was raided by members of the Chicago Police Department. Two of my comrades-in-arms and friends, Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were murdered. There were four others who were wounded, maimed and incarcerated with high bonds.

I got shot six times. I'm lucky to be alive. And I know what I was doing. The police said I had a gun, but the FBI did a ballistics report which said "no shot." No shell cases were found. In other words, no weapon in that room had been fired. So how could I shoot the police? I was shot six times. I was on the floor laying down, trying to duck bullets. I was taken to the hospital. The whole treatment: the way the policemen, the doctors, the nurses tried to question me. I was hurt, dying and they were telling me somebody was going to come in and steal me out of there. I was handcuffed to the bed. If this is America I wonder if some kind of justice could be gotten after all this.



Paul Sequeira

A Dynamic Leader

Fred Hampton was Chairman of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party. He was 21 years old when he was murdered. He was a youthful, dynamic leader. He had integrity; he was a very honest person. He could influence a lot of people, not only in his manner or the way he talked, but more by the things he stood for. He was a charismatic person.

Fred came from a Black middle class family. His mother and father were working and had moved to Maywood, a suburb. He went to a good school and became active early in his life. Fred joined the youth chapter of the NAACP in Maywood and organized at his school, Proviso East, on different issues involving Black students.

Fred read a lot to keep up with what was going on



Above left: Ronald "Doc" Satchel with community residents at the Spurgeon "Jake" Winters Free Medical Center. **Above right:** The Black Panther Party offered the first free mass screening program for sickle cell anemia in Chicago. **Below:** Free Busing To Prisons Program provided free transportation for friends and relatives of inmates at Illinois prisons.

in the world. He was always reading papers and books and started out as a pre-law student. After he got out of high school he saw that the problems that affected people were not just limited to Maywood or Chicago. He came to Chicago a lot and met certain people here. In the summer of 1968 Fred and some people had a series of meetings and finally the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party was formed. We opened an office at 2350 W. Madison.

The Survival Programs

One of the first programs we had was the Free Breakfast For Children Program. The purpose of this program was to meet a need. There were children going to schools, Black children who didn't eat and it's hard to study on an empty stomach. We solicited from the businessmen, wrote letters, asked for contributions of food, money or whatever they could give. We asked for volunteers from the community.

We had a lot of people helping us, from St. Muriel High School. Some of the volunteers helped at our first breakfast site which was located at the Better Boys Foundation on 15th and Pulaski. We also tried to get mothers in the community to help.

At our first Breakfast Program we were feeding 100, 150, sometimes 200 children a day. We expanded the sites all over the city. We had one at St. Dominic's church on the near north side and several sites on the south side and the west side. We fed them out of our offices. We would leaflet and let the people in



a certain area know when the program was going to start. We'd begin at 7 a.m., but get there about 6 a.m. and served the food from 7 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. We fed the children a nutritious meal — eggs, bacon, toast, cereal, fruit, pancakes whatever we could get donated. We tried to get them the most nutritious meal that we could. And we were doing something. We were showing our people by example that certain things can work. The program was successful.

This stuff the FBI was saying about the coloring books — that's totally false and fabricated. We never distributed no coloring book to the Breakfast Program. The only thing we did on occasion was to orientate the children to what the Black Panther Party was about. We didn't tell them about no guns or nothing else. We just told the children to go to school

after they left and if we had time, we'd talk about the Ten Point Platform and Program which consisted of freedom, full employment, housing and things like that.

We also had a Free Busing To Prisons Program which could take inmates' relatives to Joliet, Pontiac and Stateville and other jails and prisons. We even had buses go to Menard and Vienna. Those visits were important to people in the jails because it was hard for people without cars to go down. There were a lot of older people and the programs helped maintain the family ties.

To make programs like this work, Fred would always be at the site and make sure the Party members were there to provide an example so the community people would be disciplined about getting there on time. Fred had leadership qualities that made it easy for him to organize. He went to churches, talked to people and had friends among the clergy. He would always be talking to members of the congregation and not just on Sundays. He was very active; talking to people, explaining to them our program. People wanted to do something because Fred was showing them how. He would go out there and set the example. He would be there at 6 a.m. at the Breakfast Program. When people saw him there it made Fred feel good; it made them want to help.

Fred respected anybody's opinion, no matter what their station in life was and that's what I respected about him. We had people in the Black Panther Party with a lot of different experiences — ex-GI's, people who fought in Vietnam, college students, people who had dropped out of high school. Fred tried to get these high school students to finish. There were even a few people who tried to hang around — working on the programs, working in the offices. These people were not members, but sympathizers and supporters.

The Conspiracy

They murdered Fred for the same reason they murdered Martin Luther King. There was a conspiracy which came from the government or the CIA. I believe they thought Fred was a person capable of uniting the people under one program or one organization. If you can do this in the United States, this is one of the biggest threats. They knew Fred could influence people. He had followers not only from the lower class on the west side in the poor community but he was respected as an intelligent person by peo-



Fred Hampton (left with fur hat) was always active, talking to the people, explaining the survival programs. "People wanted to do something because Fred was showing them how."

ple from the middle class and even by some from the upper classes. He was just telling the truth, so people looked up to him.

I don't think Fred died in vain. In the late 60's and early 70's we tried to work with a lot of gang members; we tried to tell them to stop killing each other. After he died people stopped gang-banging just because of his death. They became serious. He used to talk to people — not just gangbangers — but other people, about organizing. He was a very influential person at the time he was living. The things that he stood for and said and did were a lesson for masses of people. Some of these people didn't react at the time. Some people did learn their lesson back then and their lives have changed or been affected by the events of the past.

The health clinic was one of Fred's main projects at the time of his death. After Fred died, donations, the masses and a lot of extra help came to the organization and we were able to open up the Spurgeon "Jake" Winters Free Medical Center on the west side, in Lawndale, at 3850 W. 16th St. We kept it open for three years from 1970 to 1973.

Fred's Vision — Building A Coalition

When Fred spoke downtown at the trial of Chairman Bobby Seale in 1969 thousands of people came to hear him. People took off from school, from all over the city to come down and listen to Fred Hampton. He had a real heavy influence on young people.



More than 3,000 people turned out at the Aragon Ballroom in Uptown on October 8, 1972 to show their support for the Black Panther Party's program to end police brutality and establish community control of police.

I always run into young people on the streets who I knew from those years and they are always glad to see me. The youth all have a high esteem for Fred Hampton. He was a great leader. But they killed him when he was 21, before his potential could even be realized. This was the major tragedy. His murder showed people what the government would do to suppress people who tried to organize and get what is theirs.

We just wanted to end police brutality because there was a lot of unnecessary killing of Black people. We had Blacks from Vietnam writing us, coming back from the war and joining our ranks. We just had support from everywhere. We always tried to offer something concrete. For example, we just didn't say, "Well, you have no police," or "kill all police." We offered a concrete alternative: community control of police or decentralization of the police. At that time Fred made speeches and talked with a lot of people like State Senator Harold Washington and State Senator Richard Newhouse and attorneys. We were building programs and trying to put community control of the police on the ballot for a referendum.

In 1968 and 1969 there were organizations talking about the same things. Fred thought we could just unify around the issues. We formed a coalition. There was the Young Patriots who worked with poor Whites in Uptown. They were doing similar things — they had a health clinic and were feeding people. Another group — the Young Lords Organization was Puerto Rican. They were ex-gang, turned political. They were also in the coalition. And then there was the Black Panther Party.

We organized different rallies and marches and were very effective. We had meetings and studied together. Fred was building relationships between different ethnic groups. We saw that our problems came from living under capitalism. We understood money to be the main problem. "He's oppressing all of us." That's what Fred said. "In order for us to get him off our backs we can't fight each other, we have to join together and fight him off." That's the way Fred felt.

The Hampton case is moving towards the Supreme Court and I'm not too optimistic. I think the facts can't be covered up any longer and they're going to have to come out. The people responsible are going to have to be exposed for what happened. They might not give us what we want or deserve, but they're going to have to give us something.

The other day I read about this man who sued someone for \$80,000 for stealing his wife. You got these type of things going on in America and some mothers can't even get restitution for their sons being murdered; for one of them, her son being drugged and murdered. There was no doubt in my mind that Fred was drugged. Fred's mother should be rewarded something. Fred didn't take any drugs; he didn't smoke pot or do anything like that. It was proven by a pathologist who did the autopsy that there was seconal in his blood, and later this informant even bragged about putting it there. Fred never took drugs. He was a very straight person, straight forward, intelligent, moving Black man.

The facts are there. It was clear cut murder. And this is America. □

“Ten years ago, December 4, 1969, Fred Hampton was murdered in his bed...along with Mark Clark. As of yet we haven't received justice in the courts with the suit — the damage suits against the Chicago police officers involved. What I think about now, and what I feel now, is that we just don't forget Fred and Mark, what they lived and died for.

It is very important that we tell our children about things that happened then. We lived at a historical time and our children can reap the benefits of our knowledge by our just telling them. There is nothing really written to explain what Fred was about, what he was doing and a lot of the things that the Black Panther

Party was involved in then. It is important that our children get a clear picture of what we were involved in — freedom for all Black, poor and oppressed people.”

— Deborah Johnson



Deborah Johnson,
Fred Hampton's fiancée,
and "Little" Fred.
Deborah was 8½ months
pregnant when police
fired into the bedroom,
killing Hampton.

To Black and

What do we tell our children about the murders of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, now, ten years later?

KEEP STRONG invited people in Chicago and across the country to participate in this collective dedication. Some of the contributors knew Fred personally. They were his co-workers, comrades, teachers...others were community leaders outraged by his murder who called for justice and an investigation of the facts surrounding the Dec. 4 raid. They are men and women who learned from Fred Hampton and in their own lives and work applied his ideas and experience to solving problems in their own communities. Their insights will, perhaps, lead us to understand the meaning of Fred Hampton's life and work, his assassination and the commitment he asked us to make building a movement for social justice in this country.

"Thinking Among Oppressed People Is Dangerous To The Oppressor"

By Lu Palmer

Fred Hampton was assassinated because he was making serious inroads into the minds of young Blacks. I am not certain that this fact is sufficiently understood. There is a war on for the minds of young Black people and Fred Hampton, along with his colleagues in the Illinois Black Panther Party, was winning one skirmish after another in this very subtle but overwhelmingly important battle.

Fred, himself, had regained control over his own mind and had vowed that he would do whatever was necessary to show other young Blacks how they could retrieve their minds from the control of oppressive forces. Black Panther members were required to read. Discussions were held during which reading material was analyzed. This created a climate that provoked thinking.

But thinking among oppressed people is dangerous to the oppressor

With the implementation of the Breakfast for Children program, Fred Hampton and his Black Pan-

poor people, Fred was a teacher.

ther colleagues were deliberate in their objectives to feed the mind as well as the body. Thus, little children were given morsels for their minds as they were given bread for their bodies.

This was dangerous.

Fred Hampton was able to think beyond his ability to talk. Some of us often had to tell Fred to slow down the words which shot out of his mouth with a speed comparable to that of bullets fired from a machine gun. Fred Hampton's mind raced beyond his ability to articulate his thoughts. At the same time, the words which came out had enormous impact on his listeners and it soon became clear that here was a young man with unusual abilities to deal on the minds of his peers and those older than he.

This was dangerous and made Fred Hampton a marked man

There is no question in my mind about Fred Hampton's unique talents for leadership. He combined those talents with a brand of commitment which is rare. I remember once being asked who I considered



Paul Sequeira

to be the greatest Black leader of that period. I answered without hesitation: Fred Hampton. The tragedy is that, should that question be put to me now, I would be hard pressed to provide an answer.

As we commemorate the 10th anniversary of the murder of Fred Hampton, I submit that Fred's generalship in the war to win the minds of young Black people was his greatest triumph. The lessons that his young life taught make up the legacy he left behind. That legacy is best expressed in the words of Carter G. Woodson:

"When you control a man's thinking, you do not have to worry about his actions. You do not have to tell him to stand here or go yonder. He will find his proper place and he will stay in it. You do not have to tell him to go to the back door. He will go without being told. In fact, if he goes to the back and does not find a door, he will cut one out for his own benefit. His education makes it necessary."

Lu Palmer is a Black Journalist in Chicago.

A lot of people think revolution is a bad word. Revolution is nothing but having a sore on your body and then you put something on that sore to cure that infection. And I'm telling you that we're living in an infectious society right now. I'm telling you that we're living in a sick society. We're involved in a society that produces ADC victims. We're involved in a society that produces criminals, thieves and robbers and rappers. Whenever you are in a society like that, that is a sick society. **—Fred Hampton**



Fred Hampton— "He Was Clearly A 'Comer'"

By Leon M. Despres

A few months before he died, I heard Fred Hampton talk at a public question and answer session. It was the only time I ever saw him. The questioners were newspaper people, neither friendly nor hostile, but probing. The questions were about political and economic problems. What struck me was his extraordinary intellect. I had been prepared to see a militant, left-oriented person, but I was deeply impressed by the quickness of his intellect, his command of language and ideas, the versatility and directness of his expression and his extraordinary maturity. Here was a person, I felt, who had exceptional equipment and enormous promise for future development. He was clearly a "comer." Where he would go, what he would do, and which social paths he would ultimately take I could not know, but I recognized his enormous potential. His death was a terrible loss.

Leon Despres was alderman of the 5th Ward from 1955 to 1975.

Fred Hampton: He Made The Courageous Stand

By James Montgomery

I seem to remember that it was in early 1968 that the Panthers really got off the ground. Maybe it was earlier but my first recollection of Fred Hampton was when I represented a couple of young Black men in Maywood and when I went to court it was after they had been convicted and sentenced to jail. They just didn't seem like the sort of people one would sentence to jail.

When I went to court that day, Fred Hampton was there; to show support for those fellows. I did not know Fred Hampton, I'd never heard of him. I didn't know who the hell he was — just a guy. The judge called us into chambers. And when I went back there the judge commenced a big conversation about this Fred Hampton fellow with whom these defendants were associated and that Fred Hampton was a trou-

blemaker in the local schools and all that business.

I didn't meet Fred at that court appearance and I think the next time that I really ran into him was when there had been a march by the NAACP on Maywood Village Hall, and as a result of the march which Fred led, many people were arrested including Fred. We tried the case and that's when I first met Fred. Probably the most dramatic person in the whole trial was Fred Hampton. Fred Hampton got on the witness

talked about when he was in the penitentiary how he heard the "beat."

I think that probably the significance that his death had to me as a person, as a Black man, is that it let me know that people, Black people, who have made the courageous stand to try and do something about oppression in the United States — they get ripped off. And it was really obvious that the killing of Fred Hampton had the precise impact that it was intended to have. It absolutely quelled the thrust of the Black Panther Party. It diminished the ranks of the Black Panther Party. I'm sure it drove a lot of parents of Panthers into pandemonium trying to get their kids out of it. And I guess the next thing it really meant to me was when I learned that there'd been more than ten FBI and other informants that were infiltrating and were a part of the Panther Party. I remember William O'Neal for instance, being at my office one evening. We were discussing things that did not need to be discussed in the presence of the government. He was an aggressive member of that group. And he was the only one up there who was smoking a joint and passing it around to here or there.

I wonder now, ten years later, where Fred would be today had Fred lived. I don't know what that answer is. I know that Fred told me that he spent a good deal of his time going from one church to another, watching, observing the techniques of the various ministers who he thought were effective preachers. And how he read Malcolm X's autobiography until his eyes started to fail him. He really fought to develop the ability to move people the way he did. I remember he was always in school. He always had a book. He was reading something all the time.

James Montgomery is a prominent lawyer in Chicago and represents the plaintiffs in the Hampton-Clark civil suit.

Paul J. Sequera



Black Panther Party Rally in 1969.

stand and Fred Hampton was absolutely eloquent, courageous and uncensored in his expression of the truth as he saw it.

Then I began to see Fred speak at public functions. I was absolutely impressed with his ability to move people, his dedication to where he was coming from, and his unswerving notions about where he was going. Or where he thought Black people ought to be going, where people ought to be going in general. I think the morning I read that he had been killed was probably one of the most crushing blows that I had ever sustained in terms of my own hero worship in my life. I immediately took off to go to the court house to defend Deborah, his woman and his wife.

I guess what I remember about him most, what I chuckle about sometimes when I think about it was when he came out of prison. Lucy Montgomery had a party for him. It was probably the closest and most intimate opportunity I ever had to really listen to him in a small arena. It was a small group of people. The man demonstrated just a wealth of talent and ability and I remember that was the first time I had heard him talk about his love for the people. He said he loved the people before he loved women and you could see the glint in his eye that would indicate how dearly and how much he loved women. And he

Building The Rainbow Coalition

By Jose Cha-Cha Jimenez

I met Fred in January of 1969. He had sent a representative to our office and asked if we could meet to form a coalition. I was surprised. I thought all the Panthers and Brown Berets (a Mexican group) were in California

We didn't feel a coalition was possible. So many groups were so busy trying to fight for "poverty

jobs," while some groups were into themselves and caught up in being "professional organizers." Still other groups were caught up in "spotlighting." They would initiate activities that would invite more repression and would force good organizers into hiding. Although they were broad-minded by connecting the issues within the U.S. borders—they were narrow-minded by not making the distinction. They sought world-wide support, but failed to gain support in Chicago. As Fred would say, "How can you go to Vietnam, without passing through Chicago?"

We had all these ideas in our minds. All Fred did was point out that we had the same goals; we needed to work together and we needed to distinguish between friends and enemies.

Those corrupt men and women in power who contributed to police brutality, repression, urban renewal, gang violence, riots and crime in the streets — were our enemies. All those opposed were our friends.

The "Rainbow Coalition" was started. It consisted of the Black Panthers, Young Patriots (poor Whites), the Young Lords and the people.

The first project was a Free Breakfast for Children program in various schools. This embarrassment forced the city council to institute their own breakfast for children program. The Rainbow Coalition and Fred had won a victory.

Participation in each other's activities was mandatory and Fred was arrested a few times in Westtown, in welfare rights demonstrations organized by the Latin American Defense Organization (LADO), the Spanish Action Committee of Chicago (SACC) and the Young Lords. (It is now a known fact that surveillance existed and provocateurs were hired by city agencies to infiltrate and provoke violence in these demonstrations.)

The spirit of the Rainbow Coalition continued. More and more programs were set up — free health clinics, free day care centers, history classes and even aldermanic campaigns. All of these helped organize the neighborhoods so that the people themselves can bring about their own change. The spirit of Fred still lives 10 years after his death.

He was not a fake. Fred was for real. He loved all the people. The people loved him. I cried tears at his funeral because I loved Fred. He is my brother.

Jose Cha-Cha Jimenez was President of the Young Lords Organization and is a community activist in the Latino community of Chicago.



Paul Sequeira

Fred Taught Us What It Means To Be A Revolutionary

By Slim Coleman

What will we tell the children about Fred Hampton? What, in fact, will we tell ourselves about Fred Hampton? We should say now, ten years after he was murdered, what he told us almost every day, what he said together with us at every meeting: "I am a revolutionary."

Fred Hampton believed that the people themselves must involve themselves in the struggle for the basic things in life they have a right to, as human beings. The people did not need someone to "negotiate" these for them. The people did not need to be given these things. Fred said: "No one can give you freedom. You have to take your own freedom."

But Fred also believed that people should be shown that they did, in fact, have the ability, the knowledge, the intelligence and the energy to take and develop the basic things they had a right to. This



The Black Panther Party's famous Free Breakfast For Children Program served thousands of children. "Any program that's brought into our community should be analyzed to see that it meets the needs of the community." -- Fred Hampton



Paul Squire/TA

was the reason for the survival program. The obligation of a revolutionary organization, Fred told us again and again, was to provide models of people taking their life into their own hands. These were models like the breakfast program and the free health center, that the people observe, then participate in, and from their participation learn the potential to achieve in struggle together, the things they needed.

But the survival programs were not to be models of capitalist society. They were to be models of the people planning together, each contributing according to his ability and each receiving according to his need. The concrete reality of the survival program was opposed to capitalism, opposed to a system where a few own and control the means of production, the wealth and the power, while the majority are wage slaves or welfare slaves.

The vision Fred lived and died for was based on the



belief that the masses of people could organize themselves to run society better, in the interest of all, than a few wealthy and greedy capitalists. If you believe that you are a revolutionary, you have to believe in yourself and people like yourself. You have to believe that you and people like you can run this society better than it is being run now. You have to believe that you and others like you have the ability, the intelligence and the energy to take control of this society away from those who presently control it. You have to believe in yourself. Fred said, "If you are afraid of revolution, you are afraid of yourself."

Fred Hampton was logical. You could not deny him without denying logic. You either believed in yourself or you didn't. If you did, than you believed in revolution. Once you made that decision to maintain your own self-respect, you had to participate in the practice of revolution: the practice of organizing and educating the people in concrete ways to believe in themselves and their own ability.

In these terms Fred put racism in perspective. Racism is based in refusing to believe in the potential of all human beings. And when you believe some human beings with one color skin are less capable than others, you degrade yourself. You ultimately believe that you are not as capable as those who own and control this society.

If you are a racist, you are afraid of yourself, of your own potential to be equal to anyone. If you are afraid of revolution, you are afraid of yourself. Fred brought many of us to a crossroads from which there was no turning back. We could live respecting our own potential as human beings and work for "power to the people," or we could live and die with the



The Black Panther Party's Free Medical Program provided quality health care to thousands of Black and poor people in Chicago.

haunting knowledge that we were afraid to respect and believe in ourselves. I believe that is a lot for one man to do.

Slim Coleman is the Co-Chairman of the Heart of Uptown Coalition in Chicago.

Why The Government Murdered Fred Hampton

By Dick Gregory

I knew Fred Hampton when he started to work to organize the community. You see, it's bigger than Fred Hampton. As long as the Black Panthers were talking about "kill, racist White pig police" nobody was going to bother them. But the minute it came to food programs; the minute it came to testing little Black children to find out if they had lead poisoning; then they got wiped out in 18 months.

That happened all across the country. That was the big fault this government had with them. As long as you're talking violence, they'll understand that and promote it. When you start going in and talking about changing the conditions that exist in your community in a positive way, this government is not going to tolerate it.

I think the significance of the Fred Hampton case is that the federal judges and the federal prosecutors throughout this country were in for a rude awakening. When you look at those facts and talk about those things that came out, that you never knew happened, you're looking at cold, hard, scientific evidence, that never got in the press. I'm not saying that it didn't get in the press because of a conspiracy, you just can't run everything in the press.

For years judges just thought that the government was above certain things and then they started to find out that the FBI and local government were involved. The length of time that it went on meant that it just wasn't already what they told us. I think that's very important. There's nothing as important as that; the masses of people have to be very careful.

The Black community didn't learn anything; we knew it was going on. The White community got a fantastic education because they didn't think that these things would go on. I think if it happens again, there will be an outrage.

Dick Gregory is a prominent civil rights activist and comedian.

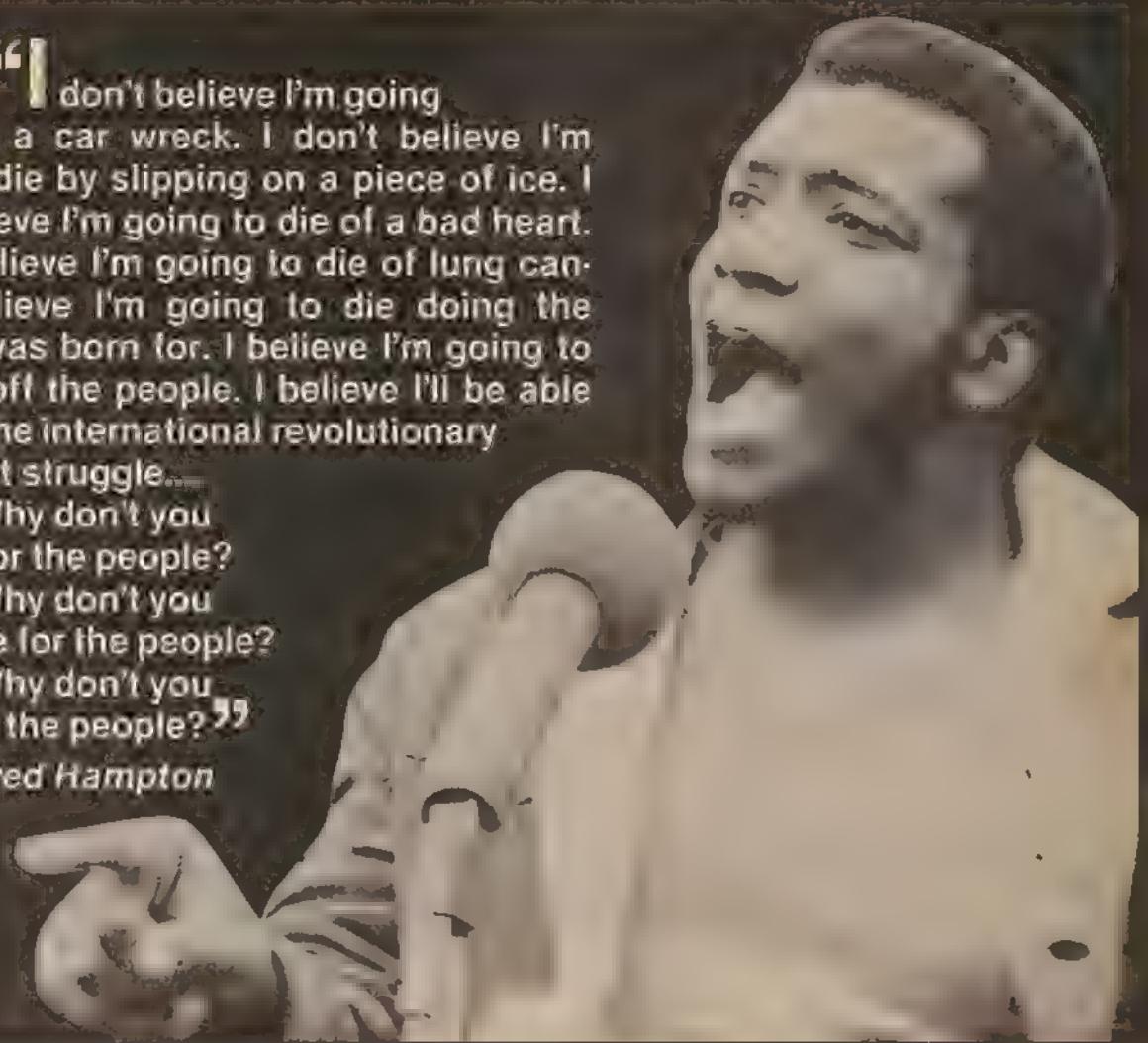
“I don't believe I'm going to die in a car wreck. I don't believe I'm going to die by slipping on a piece of ice. I don't believe I'm going to die of a bad heart. I don't believe I'm going to die of lung cancer. I believe I'm going to die doing the things I was born for. I believe I'm going to die high off the people. I believe I'll be able to die in the international revolutionary proletariat struggle...

Why don't you live for the people?

Why don't you struggle for the people?

Why don't you die for the people?”

—Fred Hampton



Afro-American Police League: "We're Making A Breakthrough"

By Howard Saffold

On the cold morning of December 4, 1969, the word of the shooting death of Fred Hampton had spread throughout the community. After a careful walk through this West Monroe Street apartment, the Afro-American Patrolmen's League concluded that this tragedy could not be called anything but a political assassination.

Ten years later, the public is still learning of the types of unjustifiable practices of "responsible" law enforcement agencies; namely the Federal Bureau of Investigation as well as most local police departments. The spying, the deceit, the infiltrations of community groups, became a matter of public record.

The term "radical" had become a household word

both in the media as well as in law enforcement files. In the minds of some, the word meant people who were an enemy to the American system of government. To others, it meant people who were willing to overtly advocate change in a system that they identified with, yet felt the need for change in critical areas that adversely affected Blacks, Latinos, and other oppressed segments of our society.

As it turned out, many of the people who hated the notion that the system was being challenged, found that the issues that were being raised in the sixties, were in fact legitimate issues. The quest for change by the so called "radicals" would eventually end up on the lips of millions, i.e., stop the war in Vietnam, stop police brutality, stop discriminating against minorities, end corruption in government, feed the hungry, house the homeless, educate the ignorant and so on.

Needless to say, some, but very little progress has been realized in many areas.

The facts are



Chicago police carry out the bullet-riddled body of Fred Hampton. Deborah Johnson, also asleep on the bed (right), heard somebody say, "He's barely alive, and he'll barely make it." She heard more shots and someone said, "He's good and dead now."



Lawsuits, such as the one filed by the Afro-American Patrolmen's League (now known as the Afro-American Police League) charging racial discrimination within the Chicago Police Department, have caused a breakthrough in several police departments throughout the country, and have indeed started a slow, upward trend toward rectifying past ills. Lawsuits initiated by community groups have put some dampers on police spying. Civil suits by brutality victims have had some (not nearly enough) impact on police abuse. However, non-White males are still over 50 percent of the persons killed by police officers annually, far from being proportionate to our population percentage

Watergate, in my opinion, has created a level of public conscientiousness that may be self perpetuating in the area of watchdog groups as well as social change advocates.

A group known as the National Black Police Association was created in 1972. Sixty-five groups throughout the country have taken a forward position toward bridging the gap between the police institution and the Black communities. These officers are working with other community groups to help bring about reform in several areas including racial and sexual discrimination and citizen abuse.

Obviously, there is no simple solution to the problems this country faces. However, no solution can be intelligently entertained unless the planning

for such solutions involve a significant number of the people most adversely affected; namely Blacks and others who have already made more sacrifices than most people would want to believe. They are sometimes called "radicals," "agitators," "anti-American" and the like, but when you strip the rhetoric, you might find that a group such as the Panthers were advocating changes that all of government, indeed all of the American people should take a look at and then get about the business of change if this country is to survive as a total community.

Fred Hampton made the ultimate sacrifice as have many other Blacks of strong convictions. I think the attitude of the surviving members of his family illustrate the role that the larger society must take. They have not turned inward as a family, denouncing the government that failed them, but rather they have opted to start a Fred Hampton Scholarship Fund that encourages young law students to develop the necessary skills to improve the legal system that is all too often abusive to Blacks and other minorities.

To witness the work being done by the Hampton family; struggling to raise funds for this annual event, one must marvel at the fact that they have not joined that enormous group of society that leans on apathy and indifference for their survival.

Howard Saffold is President of the Afro-American Police League in Chicago and Vice-Chairman of the National Black Police Association.

there — It was an assassination.



Paul Serrano

More than 5,000 people attended Fred Hampton's funeral on December 9, 1969.

Fred Hampton Was Fearless

By Mike Gray

A few months after he died I began to understand exactly what it was about him that separated him from the rest of us. Watching that footage hour after hour in the editing room with Howard Alk, I finally saw that Fred Hampton was fearless. Literally, without fear.

And as we listened to the speeches again and again, it became apparent that he had accommodated death. He knew he was going to die. It was O.K.

And so he had set aside the ultimate fear, the one that stopped all of us in our tracks no matter how courageous, the root fear upon which we base all our other fears, the one that keeps all of us in line. Hampton had simply set that fear to rest.

He was free.

Thus he was able to speak clean simple truths that hit you like a thunderbolt. And the power and fury of

his words echoed in that subterranean cesspool of fascism that Nixon and Hoover operated on Constitution Avenue

How he must have terrified them. In their grasping paranoia, what must they have made of this free Black man in their midst? Certainly not one of them had the courage to deal with him face-to-face with witnesses present

So they plotted in the darkness things they never imagined we would discover. And he died in a shower of lead before he even had a chance to get his head off the pillow.

And that, they must have thought, was that.

But like a casual band of Roman soldiers, they underestimated the staying power of his memory and the memory of his words.

The Beat Goes On, if you know what I mean, and I'm sure Chairman Fred never had the slightest doubt

All Power To The People.

Mike Gray is producer of the movie, "China Syndrome," and was co-producer of "The Murder of Fred Hampton."



Paul Sequeira

“This system is out to kill us and we know it. Some say we are not ready to take on this monster. We say that we do not want to, but that is not the question any longer. The monster has taken us on and we have to deal with reality.”

—Fred Hampton

“When I Heard Fred Was Dead...”

By Bev King

For ten years the bodies of two young men have lain in their graves. Their murders have still not been avenged.

December 4, 1969—Edward Hanrahan ordered out his execution squad. Their orders were to search and destroy. Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were murdered that night by the Chicago police. Fred Hampton was deliberately killed by shots fired at close range while he was unconscious in bed. They called it a “shoot-out.” The police fired 99 times. When I heard the news on the radio that day about the so-called shoot-out, I knew immediately what had happened.

Those of us who were involved in the sixties had marched for civil rights, protested the war in Vietnam, had seen the Chicago police in action after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We heard Mayor Daley order people shot down in the street like dogs, saw the terrible brutality of the police riot in Grant Park, Lincoln Park and the streets of Old Town. I was living there at the time of the Democratic Convention in 1968.

When I heard Fred was dead, I picked up a red marking pen and walked over to a poster I had of him hanging on my wall. With the marker I drew blood running down the front of Fred's chest and then wrote on the poster: **The illegal killing of a human being, when it is planned beforehand, is MURDER.**

Bev King writes for *Keep Strong* magazine and attends Shimer College.

The People Put Hanrahan Out!

By John Hill

When repression comes, it will usually come from the police. They are the only officials in a democratic society who can physically abuse pretty much at their own discretion. The long-term response must be to the legislatures where laws limiting police discretion are made and to the courts where those laws are interpreted. But in the short run, people have to make police brutality politically costly for those who practice or authorize it.

The awful loss of Mark Clark and Fred Hampton in the struggle for justice cannot — even from the vantage point of ten years — be measured. But what community groups did about the December 4th raid can be measured. Among other things, they succeeded in making Edward Hanrahan a political has-been. Before the raid, he was the Democratic organization's star vote-getter after Daley himself. **But people who never split a ballot in their life did so to keep Hanrahan out of public life.** The struggle is ceaseless, but at least one of the things which must be done is clear.

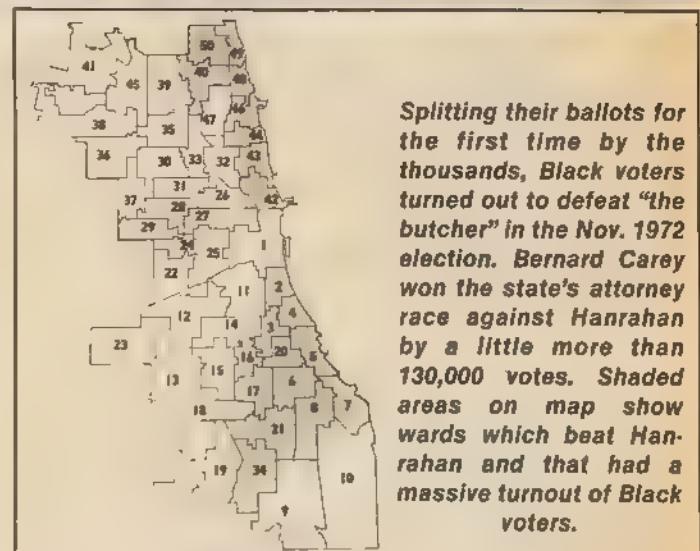
John Hill was a founding member of the Alliance to End Repression and served as coordinator until 1977.

Freedom Fighters Do Not Die

By Eugene Feldman

December of this year makes ten years since the Black freedom leaders, Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were murdered. I remember those times in 1969 very well. I was a volunteer at the People's Law Office at Halsted and Webster Streets and the staff there became immediately involved in legal defense of the survivors in the raid that took the lives of these two young men.

December 4, 1969 was a huge shock to us. **These murders came as a climax of so many others in our recent lives:** a president had been killed in Texas in 1963; in the 1960's young men and women were killed in the South struggling for the right to vote and to participate in making decisions that would determine what kind of lives we would have; the Black



Splitting their ballots for the first time by the thousands, Black voters turned out to defeat "the butcher" in the Nov. 1972 election. Bernard Carey won the state's attorney race against Hanrahan by a little more than 130,000 votes. Shaded areas on map show wards which beat Hanrahan and that had a massive turnout of Black voters.

leader Malcolm X, who wanted White and Black to work together, was shot to death in 1965; a man running for the presidency, Robert Kennedy, was shot and killed; in 1968 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was slain; and then came the murders of Fred and Mark. Please note that all of the above killings have not been satisfactorily solved and the issues, in their deaths, civil rights, living conditions, war and peace, the rights of women and gay people, Blacks, Native Americans and Latinos have not been solved either. Someone is telling us that they do not want these issues solved. They want the status quo to continue because it means special privilege and special wealth.

for those who profit from these poor conditions

But even after ten years the litigation concerning these two beautiful and great sons of the people continues. Remember please that back in slavery days when the slave Dred Scott was brought by his master into free territory he claimed he was free. Dred Scott tried to claim his freedom through the courts and for ten years, for ten long years he worked his legal way up from the lower court to the appeals court to this court and to that court and finally to the U.S. Supreme Court. At the end of the road (the U.S. Supreme Court) the Chief Justice (Tanney) said that Blacks had no rights that Whites were bound to respect. So Dred Scott had to continue being a slave in our land of the free and our home of the brave. And so it is today the courts up till now have said that it was all right to kill two Black leaders: Fred and Mark.

Now an appeals court has admitted that justice has not been done and hopefully a new trial will take place. But for ten long years justice has not been done. The issues raised by Fred Hampton and Mark Clark like those raised by ex-slaves Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and modern Dr. King and Viola Liuzzo — all freedom fighters — will not die.

Eugene Feldman teaches history at Columbia College and is on the staff of the DuSable Museum in Chicago.

"Justice Will Prevail"

By Bill Hampton

On behalf of the whole family I want to say that the Fred Hampton case is still very relevant, now 10 years later. The case proved injustice in so many ways — all the things that are coming out now about the FBI and police spying. Black officials came out in 1972 and spoke of it.

The things that the system was overlooking — like police brutality, health care, poor people and hunger — these were the things Fred Hampton and the Panthers were trying to do. These were the things that led to the murders of people like Fred Hampton and Malcolm X.

We have always felt that we were in the right. We were convinced that the evidence was overwhelmingly in our favor and that the first judgement was unfair. Even if it takes a long time, justice will prevail.

Bill Hampton is the brother of Fred Hampton and lives in Maywood, Illinois.



Malcolm X



Martin Luther King Jr.

The Hampton Case And COINTELPRO — The Cover-Up Continues

By Flint Taylor and Jeffrey Haas

Ten years later, new evidence is still being uncovered which further reveals the true parameters of the government conspiracy to destroy the Black Panther Party and to assassinate its most dynamic young leader, Fred Hampton.

The government deeply feared the effect that Hampton and the Panthers were having both in Chicago and across the country, and carefully plotted to assassinate Hampton as part of their master plan to destroy the Black Panther Party and the Black revolutionary movement. The FBI — the government's secret police — was the primary force in devising and implementing the plan — with the willing assistance of former state's attorney Edward Hanrahan and his own hand-picked police force.

In late November, 1969 FBI informant-provocateur William O'Neal secretly obtained a detailed floor plan of Hampton's apartment, which marked the bed on which Fred slept, and brought it to his superiors at the FBI who then met with Hanrahan and his men to plan the murderous raid. The floor plan was given to the raiding police, who burst into Hampton's apartment at 4:30 a.m., firing over 90 shots from a machinegun, rifles, shotguns and pistols at the sleeping Panthers, who fired, at most, one shot in response. The floor plan, according to a secret FBI memo, was "invaluable," to the raiders: 35 police bullets criss-crossed the head of the bed on which the heavily



Black Panther Party office at Madison and Western lies in shambles after one of many police raids shortly before the murder of Fred Hampton. FBI Informant William O'Neal (right) gave the FBI a detailed floor plan of Fred's apartment and marked an "X" where Hampton slept.



drugged Hampton slept, and two were fired into his brain at close range, after Deborah Johnson, 8½ months pregnant with their child, was removed from the bedroom by the raiders. The traitor, O'Neal, served as a pallbearer at Fred's funeral, and a few days later he received a \$300 bonus from FBI headquarters for his work in making the raid a "success."

This story was concealed by Hanrahan and the FBI for several years, until documents illegally suppressed in the Hampton-Clark civil rights trial were finally turned over. These documents not only clearly establish the FBI's deep complicity in this conspiracy, but also show that it was part of its grossly illegal COINTELPRO program — the same program which had earlier targeted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and many other Black leaders for "neutralization," and was expressly designed to destroy both the Panthers and the Black liberation movement.

Since December 4, 1969, the story of the assassination has been the story of government lies and cover-up. Hanrahan and his men falsely used the media to spread their lie that they had been in a "gun battle" with the "vicious Panthers" on December 4. A federal grand jury "investigation" was manipulated by the FBI and the Department of Justice who struck a deal with Hanrahan — a deal which guaranteed that Hanrahan and his men would not be charged with federal crimes by the grand jury as long as Hanrahan continued his silence about his FBI co-conspirators. In 1971, State charges of obstruction of justice were brought against Hanrahan and his men by special prosecutor, Barnabas Sears, who was still unaware of the FBI role in the murders, but a Democratic judge dismissed the case without even requiring Hanrahan to put on a defense, causing one of the special prosecutors to aptly describe the trial as "fixed."

During the 18 month civil rights damage trial, which took place in Federal District Court during 1976 and 1977, the Watergate-style cover-up reached its zenith, as the FBI's willful concealment of 25,000 pages of documents, documents which definitively proved their guilt, was finally exposed and the documents were produced. The Judge, J. Sam Perry, actively joined in the coverup, absolved the government of blame for their misconduct in concealing the documents, and despite the overwhelming evidence, dismissed the entire case, without allowing the jury to make a decision. This past April, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals, reversed Perry's dismissal, ordered a new trial, and ruled that a hearing must be held to determine how the government is to be punished for their concealment of evidence during the trial.

Nevertheless, the cover-up continues to this day, with new members joining, as the roles of others are revealed. Documents finally released this past month show that Judge Perry had secret communications with government lawyers concerning the coverup during the trial and informed them that he would not punish the FBI for their concealment of documents a year before he issued his ruling on these charges. Other information recently discovered shows that the one Court of Appeals Judge who agreed with the government's arguments, and dissented from the panel's decision, is a former special agent of the FBI and a 30-year member of its powerful political support organization — the Society of Former FBI Agents. **The lawyers who represented the FBI and Hanrahan have already collected \$2.1 million in taxpayers' money for their "defense,"** and at the direction of George Dunne, Jane Byrne, and the Solicitor General, now have officially announced that they

will appeal the Court of Appeals decision to the Supreme court. They continue to bitterly contest the Appeals Court award of attorneys' fees to the lawyers for the families, who have worked for free for the past ten years.

Flint Taylor and Jeffrey Haas are attorneys for the plaintiffs in the Hampton-Clark civil suit.

"You Won't Get A Fair Trial In His Courtroom"

By Rob Warden

U.S. District Court Judge Joseph Sam Perry angrily told Black Panther lawyer Jeffrey Haas, "...you are not going to have your way."

"I know," Haas replied. "My way is a fair trial, and I know I'm not going to get it, Judge. That is totally clear in this courtroom."

"You bet your life you are not going to get it," Perry shot back with accidental candor.

That incredible exchange took place in Perry's courtroom shortly before noon on May 11, 1977, during the height of the farce that Perry and the defendants regarded as a "trial" of a civil suit stemming from the slaying of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark.

Perry, regarded almost universally as a man of unquestioned unfairness and incompetence, was at his very worst in the Panther case.

Before the Panther case went to trial, author Joseph C. Goulden wrote in *The Benchwarmers* (Ballantine, 1974) "Mention the name of...Perry to lawyers...and they'll sniff with disdain and begin telling stories about his judicial blunders and how frustrating it is to appear before a jurist who one man called 'maybe the sorriest guy on the federal bench in the Midwest.'"

Now, of course, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit has reversed the travesty of justice committed in the Panther case by this sorriest of judges. And the U.S. District Court Executive Committee, which is composed of judges who must be



Judge Perry

ashamed to call Perry a colleague, has tacitly recognized his incompetence. The committee ordered Perry not to try any cases expected to consume more than 25 hours of trial time.

Perry is a disgrace to the judiciary. He delayed the Panther litigation needlessly for years. He wasted millions of dollars in taxpayers' money. And the old adage about justice delayed certainly applies.

You can only grope for words to express your feelings: "Outrageous," "obscene," "corrupt." They're all inadequate.

Rob Warden is Editor of the Chicago Lawyer and worked as a reporter for the Chicago Daily News from 1966 to 1978. He covered the Fred Hampton trial.

The FBI's Operation To Destroy The Black Panther Party In Chicago



J. Edgar Hoover

- The FBI began spying on Fred Hampton when he was 19 and a youth leader of the NAACP in Maywood.
- FBI agents tried to "set-up" attacks by the Black Stone Rangers against the Black Panther Party by sending vicious letters to leader Jeff Fort and other Rangers allegedly from the Black Panthers.
- While serving as a state official, Cook County State's Attorney Bernard Carey personally intercepted 21 private letters mailed to Fred Hampton while he was in prison at Menard. Carey sent copies to the FBI.
- Internal FBI reports state that there were no illegal weapons in the apartment at 2337 W. Monroe but the FBI told Hanrahan's office that illegal weapons were there.
- FBI informant Marie Fischer told lawyers that FBI agents asked her to drug Fred Hampton just days before December 4. An autopsy of Fred's body proved there was secobarbital in his blood the morning he was killed.

Ten Years — No Justice

1969

Dec. 4, 1969 Fred Hampton, 21 and Mark Clark, 23, are shot to death by 14 Chicago police officers acting under the orders of State's Attorney Edward Hanrahan. Hampton is shot in the head. Seven Black Panther Party members survive. Four were seriously wounded. All are jailed with high bonds.

Thousands of people come from across the city to tour the blood-stained apartment at 2337 W. Monroe.

Hanrahan goes on TV to re-enact the "shoot-out."

Dec. 1, 1969 Attorney General John Mitchell (convicted in the Watergate conspiracy) appoints assistant attorney Jerris Leonard to head a special Justice Department team to collect the facts about the Dec. 4 raid. The grand jury never receives the information about the FBI's role.

1970

Jan. 6, 1970 A special "blue-ribbon" coroner's inquest returns a verdict of "justifiable homicide."

Jan. 30, 1970 Cook County grand jury indicts the seven survivors of the raid on charges ranging from illegal possession of firearms to attempted murder.

May, 1970 The FBI and Department of Justice strike a deal with Hanrahan. The state's attorney's office agrees to drop charges against the survivors. In exchange, the government agrees not to indict Hanrahan so long as he remains silent about the FBI co-conspirators.



Members of grand jury tour apartment at 2337 W. Monroe.

May 15, 1970 The federal grand jury issues a lengthy report condemning Hanrahan, the police and the excessive use of force. An FBI ballistics report reveals that 99 shots came from the police and one shot, at the most, from inside the apartment. Not a single official is indicted.

June, 1970 Families of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark and the seven survivors of the Dec. 4 raid file civil rights suit against Hanrahan and the police.

Due to mounting public pressure Judge Joseph Powers of Cook County orders a special grand jury investigation of the Dec. 4 raid. Barnabas Sears is appointed special prosecutor.

1971

Special Prosecutor Sears and the grand jury, still unaware of the FBI role in the Dec. 4 raid, indict Hanrahan and 13 police officers and law enforcement officials for conspiracy to obstruct justice.

1972

Oct. 25, 1972 Hanrahan and the police officers are acquitted of the conspiracy charges.

Nov. 2, 1972 In an unprecedented turnout of millions of Black voters who split their ballot for the first time, Hanrahan is defeated by Bernard Carey for Cook County State's Attorney.

1973

During the trial of Chicago Police Officer Stanley Robinson, William O'Neal who served as Fred Hampton's bodyguard is revealed for the first time as an FBI informant.

May, 1973 *Search and Destroy: A Report by the Commission of Inquiry Into the Black Panthers and Police* is co-authored by NAACP leader Roy Wilkins and former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and concludes: "There can be no legal or factual justification for the police use of firearms. There was no shoot-out. Systems of justice...failed to protect the lives and rights of citizens."

Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals reverses Perry's decision to dismiss charges against Hanrahan.

1974

A key revelation in the civil suit: The FBI had a floor plan of Fred Hampton's apartment showing his bedroom.

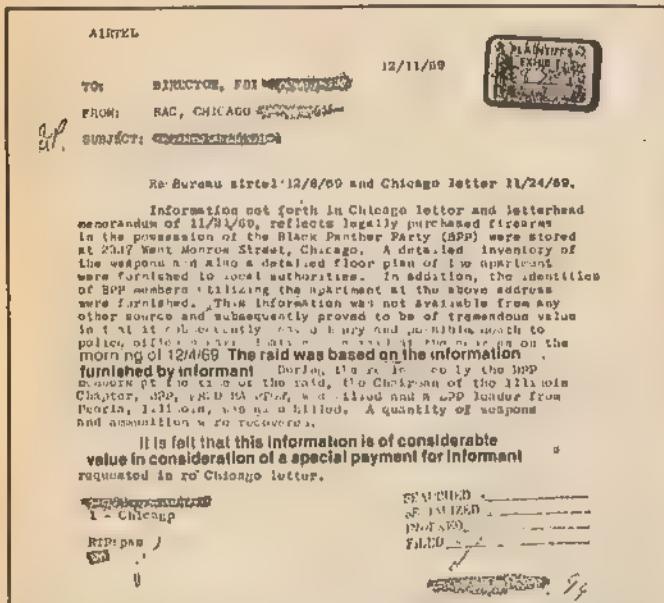
Dec. 4, 1974 The Hampton civil suit is amended to add William O'Neal and FBI officials. The \$47.7 million suit

charges Hanrahan, the police, the city and other government officials with conspiracy to deprive Hampton and Clark of their civil rights.

1976

Jan., 1976 Hampton trial begins in Judge Perry's court. The trial goes on for 18 months, the longest federal trial in history. By 1979 more than \$2.1 million in public tax money is spent defending Hanrahan and the police officers.

March, 1976 During the trial, the government is caught "suppressing" more than 25,000 pages of FBI documents. One FBI memo states that informant O'Neal should get a \$300 bonus for his work in making the raid a success. O'Neal provided the FBI with the floor plan of Hampton's apartment. The FBI called the information "invaluable."



FBI memo (12/11/69) shows how Dec. 4 raid was planned.

1977

April, 1977 A few days before Hanrahan runs for mayor of Chicago, Perry drops all charges of conspiracy against Hanrahan, the FBI and eight of the 15 officers. A month later he dismisses charges against the other seven policemen while the jury is out "deliberating." It is the second time in five years that Hanrahan has escaped trial by jury.

1979

April 23, 1979 A three-judge panel in the Court of Appeals orders a new trial for Hanrahan and 24 other law enforcement officers involved in the Dec. 4 raid. The Court's decision cites strong evidence of a conspiracy by the FBI and the state attorney's office to eliminate the Black Panther Party. The state appeals the decision to the Supreme Court.

The beat



Chicago Defender

Fred Hampton And Freedom

By Christine C. Johnson

I knew Fred, during the time Malcolm X College was being built. He used to say "that he was a revolutionary." He was very aggressive among students and teachers, and had a large following among the student body. He would say things like, "I want you to know, that I want you to think."

It has been ten years since the murder of Fred Hampton and the "beat goes on." We are still in the midst of the greatest struggle on earth and it is getting worse, not better.

Fred was a good student, but the times we lived in caught up with him. He could not pass it by, he fell victim to the times.

In his last speech Fred made before his "murder" he said, "This system is out to kill us and we know it. Some say we are not ready to take on this monster. We say that we do not want to, but that is not the question any longer. The monster has taken us on and we have to deal with reality."

U.S. racism in doctrine and practice is a capitalist concoction compounded by prejudice and ignorance

of the people goes on...



Chicago Defender

and was first administered on a mass scale to overcome resistance to the introduction and maintenance of slavery.

The apologists of the slave merchants and cotton capitalists shamelessly developed the doctrine of the inherent supremacy of people of White skin and the inherent inferiority of people of Black skin.

Despite the terrible torture that the horrible hypnotic of racism has caused the nation — including the four years of civil war — the monopolists still use this ideological rot to promote race conflict between the exploited and convert it into profit.

Fred had united the Black community and important sections of Whites through his death. After a long and heated discussion with a group of long haired, leather-jacket group of Whites, he convinced them that they were "oppressed." "You are as oppressed as we are," Hampton said, "cause you aren't even together."

Racism is the ideological alley where the greed of big business and all profiteers join in assaulting and robbing the Black communities.

Racism is the blinders on the eyes of the White working people which prevent them from seeing the threat to, and violation of, their own true class interest when discrimination is tolerated against Black citizens.

By the end of his short life, Fred was considered the No. 3 man in the national Black Panther organization and we made overtures to Fred, to leave the city and go to San Francisco, because we knew how the City felt about him.

It is sad that Fred died in his youth, and at a time when the enemies of human rights are clearly engaged in efforts to reverse the scant gains made as a result of the militant struggles of the sixties.

He is greatly missed, but, his death makes gigantic all that he stood for. Even at the moment of his last breath, Fred was in the process of serving the human rights struggle to which he had devoted his short life.

Christine C. Johnson is a writer and teacher in Chicago and has traveled all over the world. She retired in June as Director of the William Dawson Mental Health Center for Handicapped Children.

"He Had A Plan For The People"

By Lawrence Zornes

I didn't know Fred Hampton in person, but I've always known what he's done, what his mission was, what he had done for the people. He laid a foundation. He was really a teacher for the people. Now that the years have passed, looking back at his work, it really meant something to the people.

We really see that Fred Hampton had a plan — he had a plan for the people. He had a plan that was to work not for one, or a certain kind of people, but for all people - Black, poor and working people, all nationalities. I believed that his heart reached out to the hearts of men and women. He really laid a future and people started to build.

I believe in the struggle today, working for the poor people — the Black, the poor and the working people. I believe that if Fred were here today he'd be right involved here with us. He'd play a very great part and role in it. He was a very great person to look around and see the needs of the people.

I think he did a lot of things that the leaders of this nation and this country failed to do. By looking out and seeing the needs of the poor people for food,

medical care and jobs, he organized to let the people know their rights and that they were somebody.

A lot of poor and working class people feel that all they're worth is what they're paid for day to day. They didn't realize that working and poor people were the backbone of this nation.

I feel that Fred Hampton helped people to look out and see that the working and poor people who struggled to build this country.. they're somebody. The people have a right to speak for the things that belong to them. That's one great thing Fred did; he opened up that understanding to a lot of people. He let them find pride to speak and let them know that pride belongs to them.

The reason for his death? He was reaching the people. He was building too fast. The people were acknowledging that fact and overcoming their oppression. The bureaucrats and the rich had oppressed the poor Black and White and working people. They figured that if they get rid of the leaders, the ones who were opening up an understanding of the people's minds, if they got rid of him they would destroy the whole plan.

Today, I'm glad to say I've really looked into it and I've took part in the struggle, working with the people and helping to build the future that Fred Hampton wanted to build and wished for.

Lawrence Zornes is a founding member of the Chicago Area Black Lung Association. He was Chairman from December, 1976 to October, 1979.



Membership meeting of the Chicago Area Black Lung Association. "I feel Fred Hampton helped people to look out and see that the working and poor people who struggled to build this country...they're somebody," says former CABLA chairman, Lawrence Zornes.



"We Must Make A Commitment To Struggle In His Name"

By Marion Stamps

I begin to think about the people's survival programs that were run in Chicago by the Black Panther Party under the leadership of Fred Hampton. The Free Breakfast Program, the Free Health Clinic, the Free Food and Clothes giveaways, not because it was Thanksgiving or Christmas, but because the Party recognized the people needed to eat and have clothes everyday.

I remember the political educational classes held in the basement of St. Marcellus Church and 1117 and 1157 Cleveland.

I remember being able to call on brothers and sisters during a time of crisis in this community and they were there.

Most of all I remember the love Fred Hampton had for babies. Whenever I was around Fred he was surrounded by children, who would sit for hours looking up at Fred with all the love and respect in the world,

“I want you to know, that I want you to think. If you ever think about me and you ain't going to do no revolutionary act, forget about me. I don't want myself on your mind if you are not going to work for the people.”

—Fred Hampton

and he in turn, giving them the love and attention, support and wisdom, only a loving and committed brother could give.

Yes, it has been 10 years since the murder of Fred Hampton. The first three years after his death I held on to the hope that the Party would survive, that the people would give strength in his memory and to make a stronger commitment to struggle in his name. I, along with the masses of Black people, have been totally disappointed.

One would think in view of the present condition, total destruction of our communities, the apparent war that has been declared on our children by the educational institutions, the police department and the unforgivable crimes we are committing against each other, would open our eyes and minds to the fact that we must come together to liberate ourselves. This has not happened.

Yes, I remember Fred and I am more convinced today than any other time in our history, what the Black community needs today is the Black Panther Party. Remember Fred

All Power to the People.

Marion Stamps is program director of the Tranquility Memorial Community-Service Center on Chicago's near northside adjacent to Cabrini Green.

“The Machine Can Never Put Itself Together Again”

By Don Rose

It's never easy to say what a person might have accomplished if he had not been cut down early in life. It's also nearly impossible to justify a man's death on the basis of its aftermath.

But it does not strain the imagination to say that Fred Hampton in death ignited a political revolution in Chicago that would not have come so quickly and so forcefully had he continued his efforts until this very day.

The events that followed his brutal murder, within a decade, totally broke the stranglehold of the political machine on Black Chicago — and on large segments of its White community as well. Its impact, I believe, was as forceful as another event a year before it, the Democratic National Convention police riots of 1968.

There would have been no Black rebellion against the machine in 1972, 1975, 1976 and finally, 1979, if the machine had not exposed its totalitarian racism through its support for the crypto-fascist Edward V. Hanrahan during the crucial years following Fred's murder. That sustenance showed itself right down to the most recent whitewash by one of the machine's stalwarts on the federal bench — a decision finally unwound by the court of appeals.

When, in its massive uprising seeking retribution for Fred's murder, the Black community rejected Hanrahan for State's Attorney Bernard Carey, it did more than simply knock out an obnoxious public official. It learned a lesson in collective power and independent use of the ballot that it never forgot.

Together it voted against Richard J. Daley, then to save the late Congressman Ralph H. Metcalfe, and finally — massively again — to throw out the regime of Mayor Michael Bilandic.

Things will never be the same again. **The machine can never put itself together again, no matter how hard politicians try, because the people learned to initiate an act of liberation.** Once learned, it can never be unlearned.

That's Fred's legacy. Few of us have so much to bequeath, in life or in death.

Don Rose is a writer and a long-time political activist in Chicago.

Contributors

Howard Saffold
(not pictured)

Photography:

Paul Sequeira
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Marion Stamps



Slim Coleman



Lu Palmer



Eugene Feldman



Jose Cha-Cha Jimenez



Christine Johnson



Don Rose



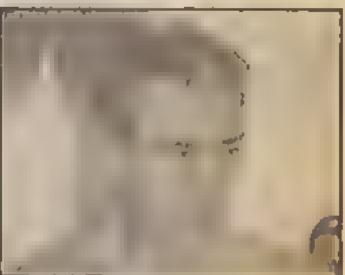
Jeff Haas



Flint Taylor



John Hill



Lawrence Zornes Jr.



Bill Hampton



James Montgomery



Rob Warden



Leon Despres



Bev King



Dick Gregory



Mike Gray

700 Attend International Conference On Puerto Rican Independence

MEXICO CITY — Declaring support for the independence of Puerto Rico, over 700 people representing delegations from 60 countries attended the Second International Conference in Solidarity with the Independence of Puerto Rico held here November 30 through December 2.

The conference which was hosted by the Mexican Peace Council, enjoyed support from the majority of Mexico's political spectrum. Although the government itself just fell short of endorsing it, the President of the conference was Natalio Vasquez Pallares, of the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), the controlling party of the Mexican government for the last 50 years.

In spite of pressure from the U.S. government against the conference, the Mexican government allowed the international event to occur at its government-run hotel in Mexico City.

Forty-eight delegates from the U.S. and almost that many more observers, participated in the international show of solidarity. On December 2, 1979, as the conference was drawing to a close, the U.S. delegation held a press conference at which time its spokesperson, Massachusetts State Representative Mel King said:

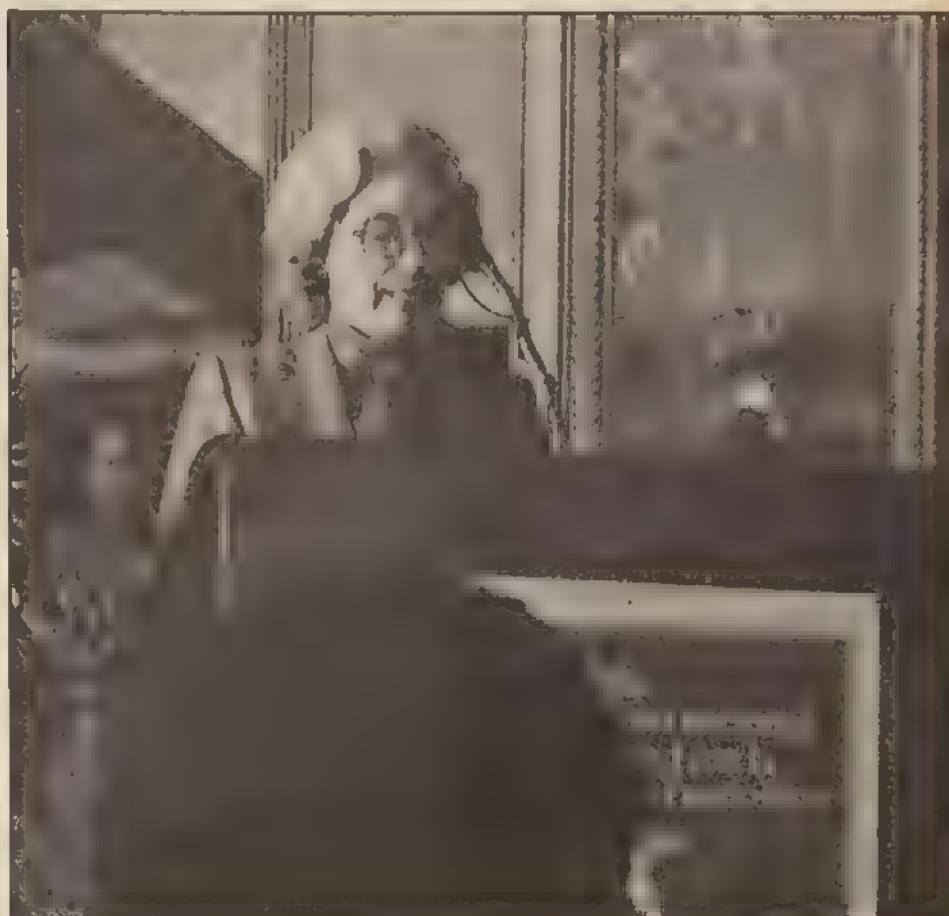
"Our delegation came to this conference outraged at the murder of Puerto Rican patriot Angel Rodriguez Cristobal in the U.S. federal prison in Tallahassee, Florida. This incident reflects neither more nor

less than the illegal U.S. colonial domination of Puerto Rico.

"Our government has been indicted at this conference for its role in Puerto Rico. We Blacks, Whites, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, Native Americans, elected officials, trade unionists, lawyers, clergy, social and civil rights activists endorse that indictment and take our stand on the side of freedom for the Puerto Rican people.

"Our delegation also wants to call your attention to the fact that Con-

gressman Ronald Dellums (D.-Calif.), will introduce a bill in Congress in early 1980 calling for the total transfer of powers from the U.S. government to the Puerto Rican people. I, in my legislature, will introduce a similar bill, and our entire delegation is committed to launching a nation-wide campaign in favor of the transfer of powers, because we believe that only a free people can determine their own destiny. We also repudiate any attempt to annex Puerto Rico as a



Lolita Lebron speaking at the International Conference in Solidarity with the Independence of Puerto Rico. 700 people, representing delegations from 60 countries attended.

INTERCOMMUNAL

state or to modify the present Commonwealth, with cosmetic changes, that will only continue colonialism....

"Further, it is a contradiction for all Americans to be educating our children about the Declaration of Independence while our govern-

ment maintains colonialism in Puerto Rico.

"The international recognition of colonialism manifested here and at the United Nations since 1973 makes it clear that this is not an internal affair of the United States. In fact, the support expressed at

this Conference demonstrates that what is at stake is the liberation of one of the few remaining colonies in the 20th century. As a delegation we are committed to making sure that we do not go into the 21st century with the stain of colonialism on our hands." □

U.S. Domination Of Puerto Rico Political History —

November 9, 1897 — Spain establishes an autonomous government on the island of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico is recognized internationally as a separate legal entity by admission to the Universal Postal Union.

April 25, 1898 — U.S. declares war on Spain.

July 25, 1898 — American troops land in Puerto Rico.

October 18, 1898 — Spain surrenders the island.

December 10, 1898 — Treaty of Paris is signed. Puerto Rico is ceded to the United States in "compensation for the losses and expenses occasioned by the United States by the war." Puerto Rico is not represented at the treaty negotiations.

1901 — U.S. Supreme Court defines Puerto Rico as a "non-incorporated territory which belongs to, but is not part of, the United States. U.S. Constitution authorizes Congress to dictate rule and regulation for any 'territory of the United States.'"

1917 — Jones Act signed into law, declaring Puerto Ricans as U.S. citizens, eligible for military service. Act reaffirms U.S. power

over Puerto Rican legislation, customs, immigration, postal service, defense, trade and relationships with other countries.

1952 — Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Constitution adopted in plebiscite (election). Congress added two amendments to the constitution after it passed. Amendments reaffirm provisions of 1917 Jones Act.

1953 — U.S. takes its case on Puerto Rico to the world. Using the new Puerto Rican Constitution as ammunition, the U.S. argues that Puerto Rico is no longer a colony. U.N. votes 26 to 16, 18 abstentions, in support of the U.S. position. Puerto Rico is defined as a "Free Associated State."

March 1954 — Four Puerto Rican patriots open fire in the halls of the U.S. Congress. Their goal — "to bring to the attention of the American people and the world that Puerto Rico is not free." The four are arrested and join a compatriot who had been imprisoned four years earlier.

1960 — U.N. approves implementation of principle and purposes of Article 73 of the U.N. Charter, passing Resolution 1514. Resolution widens the scope of U.N.

activity in dependent territories; establishes independence as a prerequisite for the exercise of self-determination; gives priority to the total elimination of the colonial system; places countries which continue to dominate colonies in violation of the U.N. Charter and International Law; and rejects the imperialist theory of the "civilizing mission of colonial intervention."

December 1973 — U.N. General Assembly approves a resolution from the Decolonization Committee "recognizing the inalienable right of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination and independence."

August 15, 1979 — U.N. Committee on Decolonization urges "The complete transfer of all powers to the people of this territory," and that, "full measure be taken in that direction without any delay."

September 1979 — Four Nationalist prisoners are released from federal penitentiaries after 26 years. Their comrade, Andres Figueroa Cordero, had been released a year earlier with terminal cancer and died six months later.

Vieques Activist Murdered in U.S. Prison



U.S. military attacks Vieques fishermen and supporters protesting U.S. Naval occupation of Vieques, a tiny fishing island off the coast of Puerto Rico.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Angel Rodriguez Cristobal, a Puerto Rican activist, was found dead in his prison cell at the U.S. prison in Tallahassee, Florida on November 11. Supporters of the Puerto Rican independence movement charge that he was murdered.

Cristobal, 33, lived with his family on a farm in Ciales, Puerto Rico. Last May he was among 21 persons arrested and convicted of trespassing on government property when more than 100 people demonstrated against the U.S. Navy's occupation of Vieques, a tiny fishing island off the coast of Puerto Rico.

The Navy has occupied more than

75 percent of the island since the end of World War II and uses the island as a military base and a target for bombing practice. Last year, in one month, the Navy dropped more than 200,000 tons of bombs on the island. The destruc-

are forced to depend on public aid.

Cristobal and four other Puerto Rican activists were sentenced by a U.S. territorial court in Puerto Rico but shipped to the United States for imprisonment. Cristobal was the

An autopsy and a blood-stained prison cell show that Cristobal, a Vieques activist, was murdered.

tion of the fishing industry forced thousands to leave the island, dwindling the population from 50,000 to 8,000. Those who remain

only one sent to the Florida prison. Officials there, aware of his support for Puerto Rican independence, subjected him to threats,



Supporters marched last month in Chicago to protest the murder of Vieques activist Angel Cristobal, found murdered in his prison cell.

harassments and druggings. At one point Cristobal was thrown in segregation. He refused to cooperate with prison authorities, saying he was a "prisoner of war." In a desperate effort to break him, prison officials told him that one of his lawyers had been killed. When he accused them of lying they sedated him with thorazine.

Chicago attorney Michael Deutsch who spoke to Angel the day before he was killed, gave this

account to KEEP STRONG:

"They began to tell him there were foreign substances in his food. So he didn't eat for awhile. Then one morning he ate and they told

"The bombings maintain the Vieques people on the verge of a collective nervous breakdown."

him his food had poison in it. He told us about the druggings and the threats. He was clearly affected by all this but was in no way suicidal. He kept talking about returning to Puerto Rico and was very interested in the struggle there."

The autopsy and blood-stained prison cell show signs that Angel was murdered. There was evidence of physical torture: a deep gash on his head, two bruises on the head and a pool of blood seven feet from the bars where Angel supposedly "hung" himself. "We found this out from the examiner," Deustch said. "The sheriff's department, which is supposed to examine these types of

cases, was not even allowed in the prison."

Supporters of the Puerto Rican independence movement have called for an investigation of Cristobal's murder and are demanding the immediate release of the four other Vieques prisoners now held in U.S. prisons. The prison officials will provide no information, but attorneys hope that they will be able to make contact with other prisoners who may know something about the incident.

Speaking before the U.S. territorial court which sentenced him to prison for his participation in the Vieques demonstration, Angel Cristobal summed up the U.S. role in Vieques and Puerto Rico:

"In Vieques the United States' attempt to destroy the territorial integrity has reached the extreme of genocide. Using naked armed force the Navy has destroyed the economic basis of Vieques. The bombings maintain the population on the verge of a collective nervous breakdown. The United States government is an intruder, an illegal trespasser on our land and has no right over our people." □

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Facts About The Shah We All Should Have Known Long Ago

To clear away the web of lies, half-truths and convenient silences and to search out the FACTS about what is being done around the world in our name, we present the following information about IRAN.

- In August, 1953 the C.I.A. toppled the elected Iranian government headed by Dr. Mossadegh and put the Shah who had fled the country before, into power. The Shah set up a police state.
- U.S. government documents clearly show that the Shah was to be the U.S.' strongman in the Middle East and the Indian Ocean in order to carry out U.S. policy in the region, with U.S. arms.
- Inside Iran the Shah was to develop the country's oil reserves in the interests of American and also British big oil companies, which he did.
- By 1960 the Shah faced growing opposition. In 1963 the Shah was pressured by the U.S. government to accept a plan to "modernize" some sections of the economy — mostly to benefit multinational companies and to put down *all* opposition.
- On a single day of June 15, 1963 over 15,000 people were machine-gunned.

This marked the beginning of the Shah's bloody "White Revolution."

- During the Shah's 25-year rule uncounted *fens of thousands* of people were murdered.
- The most brutal and sadistic torture was used against thousands of people led by the Shah's hated secret police — SAVAK. SAVAK was set up and its agents trained by the U.S.
- The U.S. armed the Shah with the most advanced military equipment. In 1974 alone, Pentagon figures show that more than half of *all* U.S. arms sales went to the Shah. This equipment was used by the Shah not only against neighboring countries but against the Iranian people.
- The Shah's personal fortune, which he plundered from his people, is estimated at between *5 and 30 billion dollars*. Yet in 1975 two-thirds of Iran's working families earned *less than \$7 a week*. Many earned less, and there was

great unemployment, a terrible housing shortage and little medical care outside the few main cities.

- As opposition to the Shah's rule grew broader and deeper through the 1970's, most U.S. press whitewashed his regime and labeled his opposition as "religious fanatics" or "subversives."
- The U.S. government did all in its power to support the Shah. Shortly before the Shah was driven out, the "Human Rights Advocate" Jimmy Carter made this New Year's toast to the Shah: "Iran, under the great leadership of the Shah is an island of stability in one of the most troubled areas of the world. This is a great tribute to you, Your Majesty, and to your leadership, and to the respect, admiration and love which your people give to you."

How The Shah Got Into The U.S.

- When the Shah was driven out of Iran the U.S. government pledged that it would not allow him into this country.
- The Shah had over the years turned many millions of dollars of his country's business over to the Chase Manhattan Bank, headed by David Rockefeller who became the Shah's personal friend.
- The Rockefeller family's main man in foreign affairs, Henry Kissinger, pressured the State Department to let the Shah in. When this failed in spring, 1979, Kissinger helped arrange for the Shah to go to Egypt and then to Mexico, calling the Shah an "old and valued ally."
- Kissinger and Rockefeller kept up the pressure through the summer. One memo reportedly said things would cool off by fall, 1979 and that would be a better time.
- David Rockefeller's personal doctor supplied the State Department the medical request to let the Shah into the U.S. The State Department received warnings from the U.S. embassy in Iran that allowing the Shah to enter the U.S. would be taken as an arrogant insult by the Iranian people and could possibly endanger U.S. personnel there.

Campaign To Oppose Bank Loans To South Africa Grows



In 1976 hundreds of these unarmed Soweto schoolchildren were killed when police opened fire on the largest demonstration ever held against apartheid in South Africa. South Africa's official system of racial separation maintains separate and inferior schools, hospitals and other facilities for Black people.

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa — South Africa's official policy of apartheid (racial separation) was hit last month by Black trade union strikes in Port Elizabeth and a proposed banking bill in Illinois.

The Illinois bill, House Bill 1256, would make it illegal for any bank holding state funds to make loans to South Africa or companies doing business in South Africa. Presently six Illinois banks make loans to South Africa. Two of these, Continental and First National, hold between \$60 million and \$80 million in state funds on deposit.

U.S. banks raise money directly for the South African government by selling the gold Krugerrand coins which make up 30 percent of South Africa's gold production. Close to 500 U.S. corporations support South Africa's economy through investment which makes up more than 22 percent of all U.S. foreign

investment. South Africa's economy is controlled by a White minority (16 percent) who own 87 percent of the land and receive 67 percent of the income.

The Chicago hearing on HB 1256 was highlighted by testimony from United Auto Workers Region 4 Assistant Director James Wright and exiled Black journalist Dumisani S.

Eight out of ten Black South African children die before age two because of hunger.

Kumalo. Mr. Kumalo also serves as Coordinator of the National Campaign to Oppose Bank Loans to South Africa. In the last two years public pressure has forced more than \$275 million to be withdrawn from major U.S. and Canadian banks which make loans to South Africa.

In Port Elizabeth, South Africa, more than 1,300 Black workers from the Ford Motor plant and General Tire and Rubber Company were fired when they walked off their jobs protesting conditions and racist treatment. At General Tire and Rubber the strike started when management refused to rehire two Black workers who were fired. More than 625 Blacks have refused to return to work until the company recognizes their union, United Automobile and Allied. Black workers at Ford went out on strike to protest disparaging (racially insulting) language used by Whites at the Cortina car manufacturing plant. Dismissed workers from both plants have been meeting jointly and calling for demonstrations and actions of solidarity. The South African government refuses to recognize the right of Blacks to form trade unions.

South Africa's policy of apartheid maintains White minority control over a Black majority. Blacks are not permitted to vote or join political parties, and are required to carry "passbooks" which must be stamped whenever a Black person enters and leaves a town. More than 600,000 Blacks are arrested and jailed yearly for "passbook violations." The control of the economy by Whites means high unemployment for Blacks and substandard medical care. Black unemployment in South Africa is 25 percent (in contrast to 1 percent for Whites) and eight out of ten Black babies die before age two because of starvation and hunger. □



Rita Easterling:

Moving With The Chicago Hustle

By Christine Riddiough

Rita Easterling plays guard for the Chicago Hustle of the Women's Professional Basketball League (WPBL). Last season, the first for the WPBL, she was named to the league's All-Star Team and named the season's Most Valuable Player (MVP). Hustle was runner-up last season in the midwest women's division playoffs and is considered one of the top women's basketball teams in the nation. With the new season just underway, **KEEP STRONG** talked to Rita Easterling as she practiced with the team. When at home Hustle plays at the DePaul Alumni Gym on Sheffield at Belden.

KEEP STRONG: Could you tell us something about your background?

EASTERLING: I'm from Morton, Mississippi, a small country town. I started playing basketball when I was in the fifth grade; our school was small — about 130 kids — so I played on the eighth grade team. I went on to high school and then to Mississippi College on a scholarship. I played four years there. We

Rita

went to the nationals three out of four years. After my freshman year, I went out for the United States team. We played in the Pan American games and World Championship game. The following spring I was asked by the United States Olympic Committee to tour Taiwan and Japan. My senior year I made the Kodak All-American team.

At that time they were talking about forming a women's pro-league. I didn't think it would happen for a while, then last summer they drafted me for the Chicago Hustle. I still didn't think the league would happen — I was in graduate school at Mississippi College and was helping coach the team there. I had security and was thinking of not turning pro in order to play on the Olympic team. But then I decided to try the pros — be a pioneer.



Janie Fincher, left, and Rita Easterling during a time out. Easterling and Fincher were Hustle's top point getters last season. Recently Fincher was traded to Washington. The trade upset many Hustle fans.

I'm really glad that I did. Now in the off-season I coach at Mississippi College.

KEEP STRONG: Was it unusual for girls in grade school to play basketball? Did you have much opportunity to play as a child?

EASTERLING: In Mississippi, basketball is the main sport for girls. When I was in high school we didn't have tennis teams; the main activity was basketball and some track. The people really support women's basketball down there. They put just as much emphasis on it as they do on guys'. As far as Title IX (authors note: Title IX is part of the Civil Rights law that ensures equal opportunity for women in educational activities, including sports.) goes, it hasn't affected us because in the college I went to they gave us equal treatment.

KEEP STRONG: That doesn't seem to be the case here.

EASTERLING: Up here it seems to me it's probably four or five years behind us, as far as basketball for girls goes. But it's really growing. Since I came up here, I've noticed a real increased interest in women's basketball.

KEEP STRONG: Do you think that the existence of the women's pro-league will mean a lot more women will get into basketball?

EASTERLING: Yes, I think it will. It gives women and girls as they're growing up, something to look forward to besides high school and college ball. They can even have a career. Plus the salaries are getting better every year.

KEEP STRONG: Recently Ann Meyer was drafted by the Indiana Cavaliers of the NBA. She was cut shortly thereafter. What was your





Last season, Rita Easterling, was named to the leagues All-Star team and named Most Valuable Player (MVP.) She is noted for her "fast break."

reaction to that?

EASTERLING: Ann is a good friend of mine — we played together on the United States team — but I don't really know why she did it. It made me feel like she was putting down the WPBL. I don't think women can play with men — it showed when Ann was on TV. I think the future for women is with the WPBL.

KEEP STRONG: Do you think the opportunities for women in sports, especially team sports, are increasing?

EASTERLING: Things are improving for women all over. While Title IX hasn't directly affected me, I know it's going to affect a lot of

schools up here. In a few years there'll be big advances in the WPBL. I can already tell there's a lot of change on our team since last year. In another two or three years we'll be getting everything the men are getting. There are more team sports for women now and I think that's good.

KEEP STRONG: Last year there were some controversial issues raised within the Hustle by Karen Logan who was then with the team. One of these was that there were too many men and not enough women coaches. What was your reaction to that?

EASTERLING: There are more men coaches than women coaches in the league. At this stage of the

WPBL the men are more advanced; there aren't that many good experienced women coaches around. In the next few years there'll be a lot of good women coaches.

Another issue Karen raised was that basketball was not a physical game and that the men coaches were trying to play too physical a game. But there's a lot of contact — it's not football, but it gets really physical at times.

KEEP STRONG: Another issue that's been raised has been the question of a players' association, like they have in other sports.

EASTERLING: This summer I participated in a labor union camp. One of the other people there was Lacey O'Neill. She's from Washingt-

Rita

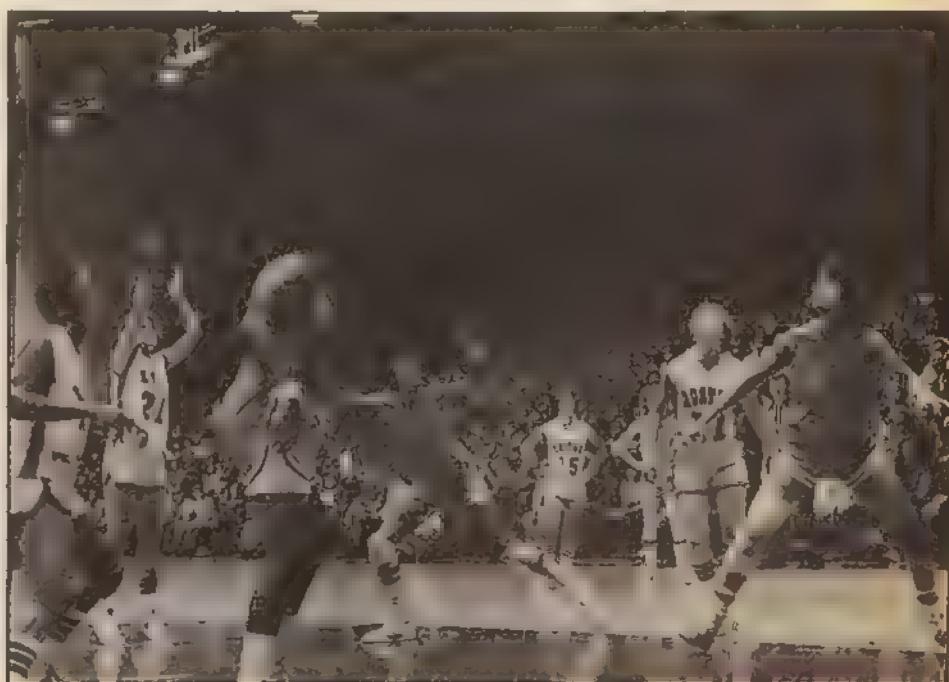
ton, D.C. — one of the first Black women in track. She talked with me about a players' association that would include all professional athletes. Right now only one or two WPBL players are members. The league is just going into its second season and I feel it's a little too soon for a player's organization because you can drain the owners. In time, like next year or the year after, it would be good to have such an association to protect the players.

KEEP STRONG: Could you tell us something about the labor union camp?

EASTERLING: The camp was sponsored by the National Football League Players' Association. It was for kids, 14-16 years old, from Chicago area families with under \$8,000 income. They asked athletes — pro football, baseball, basketball players — to come up for three or four days at a time. The whole Hustle was there at different times. I flew up from Mississippi. We had seminars with the kids in small groups. We talked about sports and how important it was to



"It gives women and girls as they're growing up, something to look forward to besides high school and college ball. They can even have a career. Plus the salaries are getting better every year."



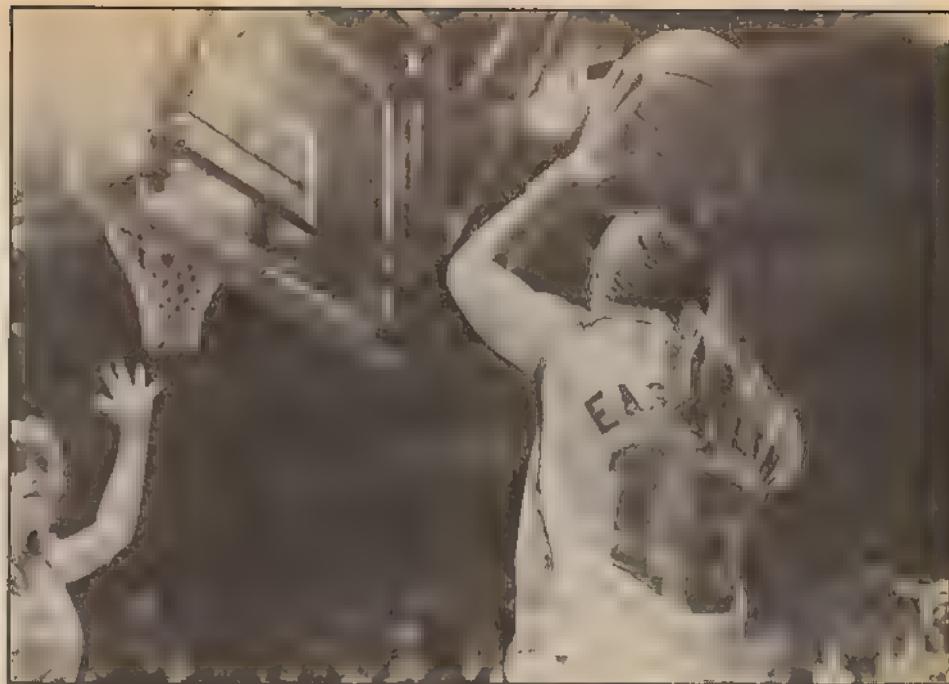
get an education. We also talked about how to fill out job applications. We had recreation times with them too. I think it was really good for the kids.

KEEP STRONG: Getting back to the Hustle — last year the team came close to winning the divisional championship. How do you think it looks for this season?

EASTERLING: The team is looking a lot better. One of our weaknesses was rebounding because the team was short, but this year we've got more height. We've got some people over six feet tall and it's really going to help us a lot on the boards, getting out and getting the fast break started. Also we're playing together — everyone gets along.

KEEP STRONG: Last year you were "Most Valuable Player" (MVP) — What was your reaction?

EASTERLING: When I started off the season I didn't know they'd have an MVP or an All Star team. I just went out and did my best like I try to do in every game. It was one of my better years — I averaged about 22 points per game. I was im-



proved and I also felt I was playing pretty consistently.

KEEP STRONG: What about your injuries?

EASTERLING: Last year was also my biggest year for injuries. After the season I had my left wrist and a finger on my right hand operated on. They're still a little sore but I tape up my finger — playing with a little pain doesn't hurt much.

KEEP STRONG: What do you plan to do after your playing days are over?

EASTERLING: I'm an assistant coach at Mississippi College now, in the off-season. After I'm through playing I'd like to see about being a pro-basketball coach or coaching at the college level.

KEEP STRONG: Thank you and good luck.



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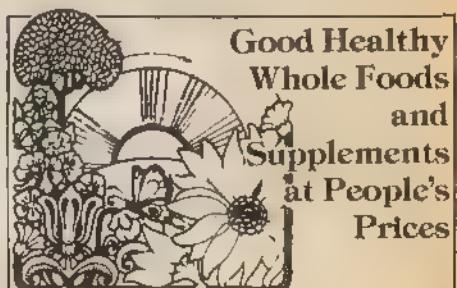


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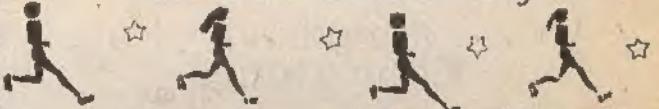


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About The Back Cover

"Growing Old In Uptown," by Bettie Conrad (1977) shows an 83 year old woman and the building where she lived on Ainslie before it burned down. The woman now lives in a nursing home.

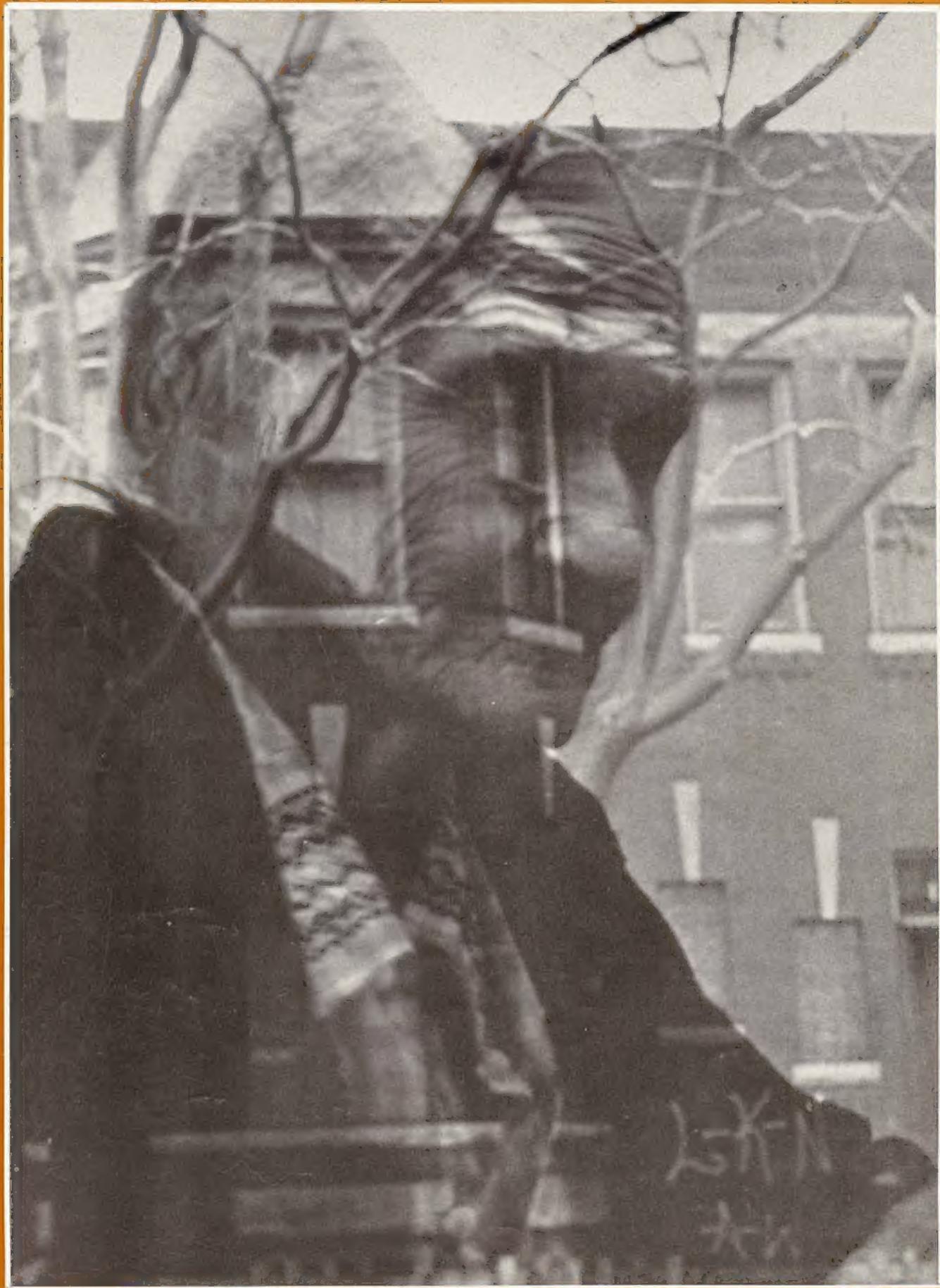
Bettie Conrad, 24, grew up in North Uptown and currently attends Truman College. She has been a freelance photographer for three years. Her photos have been displayed at Truman and published in the college's art and literary magazine. Bettie lives with her husband, David, and her 3½ year-old daughter, Lisa in Edgewater.

The following poem accompanies the photo:

A window is a mirror of loneliness
to those forgotten because they are old.
Like vacant buildings they have become
defaced, run-down, cold and of no use.
Their souls cry like the wind, through
empty rooms past crumbling walls,
echoing their despair. Like..., but they
are not buildings, but flesh and blood —
it is we who have turned to stone.

--David Conrad

Community Art Series



"Growing Old In Uptown"

Photograph by Bettie Conrad, 1977